Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-89-034
Wednesday
22 February 1989

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FBIS-SOV-89-034 CONTENTS *22 February 1989*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

16 U.S. Cruise Missiles Removed From Comiso *[TASS]* 1
U.S., UK Experts Inspect Antisubmarine Ship *[TASS]* 1
Official Denies Nuclear Missiles Modernization *[Moscow International]* 1
NATO Modernization Plans Called 'Arms Upgrading' *[IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]* 1
NATO Modernization, Disarmament Prospects Viewed *[Moscow Radio]* 2
*Warsaw Pact Forces, Budget Reduction Figures *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No 6]* 3
Western Correlation of Forces Method Criticized *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Feb]* 3
Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Feb]* 4
Military Official Cited on CW Conference *[London MORNING STAR 21 Feb]* 6

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Perfilyev Gives Foreign Ministry Briefing 21 Feb 7
Shevardnadze To Visit Iraq *[TASS]* 7
TV Remarks Said 'Regrettable' *[TASS]* 7
End to Afghan Arms Deliveries Sought *[TASS]* 7
Afghan Ambassador on State of Emergency *[TASS]* 7
Daily Reviews 'The Satanic Verses' Controversy *[IZVESTIYA 22 Feb]* 8
UN Discussion of Palestine Situation Viewed *[TASS]* 8
Future of Western Economic Sanctions Considered *[Bogomolov in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 21 Feb]* 9
Volkov Reviews ICAO Forum on Air Terrorism *[PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 10
Shevardnadze's Vienna CSCE Visit Reviewed *[Moscow TV]* 10
Consultations With EEC End in Brussels *[TASS]* 11
Head of Mission to European Communities Named *[TASS]* 11

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

Bush Briefs Press on SDI, Mideast Policy *[TASS]* 12
Bush Interview Touches on Soviet Troop Cut *[TASS]* 12
U.S. Poll Findings Show Approval of Bush *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Feb]* 12
Bush Team Sends 'Contradictory Signals' *[Ponomarev in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Feb]* 13
Baker Briefs House Committee on Foreign Policy *[TASS]* 14
Baker Meetings in Luxembourg Noted *[TASS]* 14
Tower Approval Process, Opposition Reviewed *[TASS]* 15
Confirmation Linked to SDI *[Moscow TV]* 15

Northeast Asia

Lukyanov Delegation Attending Hirohito Funeral 16
Departs, Seen Off by Talyzin *[Moscow TV]* 16
Arrives in Tokyo, Met by Hata *[TASS]* 16
Meets Japanese Diet Leaders *[TASS]* 16
Japan Said To Violate Cocom on Exports to USSR *[TASS]* 16

Near East & South Asia

Shevardnadze Meets Egypt's Sidqi; Ties Normal *[PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 17
Shevardnadze Meets Israel's Arens in Cairo *[Moscow International]* 17

Shevardnadze's Middle Eastern Tour Viewed *[Biryukov on TASS]* 17
Shevardnadze Visits Egypt, Jordan, Syria *[cross-reference]* 18
Afghan Law on Supreme Defense Council Outlined *[TASS]* 18
Members of Defense Council Named; Sharq Resigns *[IZVESTIYA 22 Feb]* 18
Kabul Residents' React to Emergency Decree *[Moscow TV]* 19
Najibullah Issues Decree on Executive Committee *[TASS]* 20
Najibullah 19 Feb TV Address Reported *[IZVESTIYA 21 Feb]* 20
Najibullah Views Regime's Military Capabilities *[TASS]* 21
Najibullah Message to Iranian, Turkish Presidents *[TASS]* 22
Afghanistan's Wakil on 'Indignation' Over U.S. Aid *[TASS]* 22
Afghan Spokesman Decries U.S. Arms to Rebels *[TASS]* 23
Afghan Envoy to USSR Urges Political Solution *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Pakistan, Western Circles Obstruct Afghan Peace *[Kornilov on TASS]* 23
World Community Urged To Aid Afghan Settlement *[PRAVDA 21 Feb]* 24
Kabul Blockade Reportedly 'Unsuccessful' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Feb]* 25
Rebel Arms Cache Found in Kabul; 39 Arrested *[Moscow TV]* 26
200 Embassy Personnel, 6 Newsmen Still in Kabul *[Moscow TV]* 26
Moderate Afghan Rebels Nix Interim Government *[Moscow International]* 26
Contacts Said 'Opened' With Opposition, King *[Moscow International]* 27
USSR Wants To 'Forget' 1979 Afghan Invasion *[Moscow Radio Peace and Progress]* 27
Biryukova Concludes India Visit, Talks 27
Meets With Gandhi *[TASS]* 27
Departs for Moscow *[TASS]* 28
Arrives in Moscow, Met by Vlasov *[Moscow TV]* 28
'Power Struggle' in Iran, Army 'Purge' in Iraq *[Moscow TV]* 28
Islamic-Western Controversy Over Rushdie Viewed 29
Islamic Conference Restraint Noted *[Volkov on Moscow International]* 29
Iranian-Western Ties Damaged *[Volkov on Moscow International]* 29
Bhutto Enemies Exploit Controversy *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 22 Feb]* 29
Rushdie Urged To Apologize *[Moscow Radio Peace and Progress]* 30

Sub-Saharan Africa

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit 30
Meets Gorbachev, Shevardnadze *[PRAVDA 18 Feb]* 30
Discusses African Issues *[Moscow International]* 31
Leaves Moscow 21 Feb *[TASS]* 31
Commentary Views Foreign Minister's Visit *[Moscow International]* 31
Ethiopian Resettlement Producing Results *[Moscow International]* 31
Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Zimbabwe Envoy *[TASS]* 32

East Europe

CSSR Court Sentences Charter-77's Havel *[Moscow Radio]* 32
CPCZ Addresses People on 1948 Anniversary *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 22 Feb]* 32
Impact of 1968 Events on CSSR Assessed *[Ryabtsev in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 18 Feb]* 32
Observer Comments on Situation in Hungary *[Kondrashov on TASS]* 33
MSZMP Submits Document on Multiparty System *[PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 34
Zhivkov Meets Intelligentsia Figures on Reform *[PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 35
'War of Nerves' in Poland Over Strikes *[IZVESTIYA 21 Feb]* 35
PZPR Delegation Visits Moscow, Volgograd *[PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 36
Outcome of LCY Plenum, Cadre Changes Reviewed *[IZVESTIYA 19 Feb]* 36
Zorin Comments on Changes in Albanian Policy *[Moscow TV]* 37

West Europe

Vorontsov Holds Talks on Afghanistan in Rome *[TASS]* 37
Voronin Meets Mitterrand, Rocard in Paris *[TASS]* 37
Soviet-French Commission Signs Agreements *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 18 Feb]* 38

Latin America & Caribbean

Foreign Ministry Views Central American Summit *[TASS]* 38
Commentary Praises Ortega Proposal at Summit *[Levchenko on Moscow International]* 39
CPSU Delegation Meets Cuban Official *[PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 39
Nuclear Safety Pact Signed With Cuba *[TASS]* 39
Gorbachev Thanks Arias for Quake Aid *[San Jose LA NACION 12 Feb]* 40

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

Gorbachev Visits Lvov, Ukraine; Meets Residents 41
Talks to Television Plant Workers *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Television Reports Factory Visit *[Moscow TV]* 42
TV Continues Factory Visit Coverage 43
Gorbachev Speaks With Residents *[Moscow Radio]* 44
TV Covers Talks With Residents 45
PRAVDA Reports Lvov Meetings *[22 Feb]* 47
TASS Sums Up Gorbachev Tour 48
Gorbachev Arrives in Donetsk From Kiev 22 Feb *[TASS]* 50
Election 'Battle' Commences at Moscow Meeting *[IZVESTIYA 20 Feb]* 50
'More Democratic' Election Procedure Discussed *[IZVESTIYA 17 Feb]* 51
Belorussian 'Informal' Groups Gather in Minsk *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Feb]* 52
Authorities Attend; Proposals Passed *[TASS]* 53
Belorussian Minister on End to Radio 'Jamming' *[Minsk ZVYAZDA 3 Feb]* 53
Ukraine Commission on Stalin Purges Meets *[Kiev International]* 54
Ukrainian Language Society Meeting Outlines Goals *[PRAVDA UKRAINY 14 Feb]* 54
Readers' Responses to Kiev Writers' Meeting *[PRAVDA UKRAINY 11 Feb]* 55
New Moldavian Interior Minister Interviewed *[TASS]* 56
Lithuanian Party Plenum Elects Secretary *[TASS]* 56
Estonian Language Debate Called 'Battlefield' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Feb]* 57
New Underground Tremors Registered in Armenia *[TASS]* 59
Update on Armenian Quake Damage, Casualties *[Yerevan Radio]* 59
TASS Lists Earthquake Damages 60
Government Allocates R150 Million to Armenia *[Yerevan Radio]* 60
Official Cites Figures for Benefits *[ARMENPRES]* 61
Inspector on Compensation Payments *[Yerevan Radio]* 61
Spitak Reconstruction Begins on New Site *[TASS]* 62
Kirovakan's Reconstruction Plans Outlined *[Yerevan International]* 62
'Tension' Persists in 'Outwardly Calm' Armenia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Feb]* 62
Yerevan Military Commandant Reports 'No Incidents' *[Yerevan Radio]* 63
Armenian Refugees Return to Azerbaijan *[IZVESTIYA 16 Feb]* 63
Baku Commandant Issues Situation Notices 64
Situation 'Peaceful' 19 Feb *[Baku Radio]* 64
Measures Foster Normalization *[Baku Radio]* 64
Profiteering, 'Negative' Work Noted *[Baku Radio]* 65
New Azerbaijan Council Chairman on Economy *[IZVESTIYA 20 Feb]* 65
Azerbaijani Commission on Interethnic Ties Meets *[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 8 Feb]* 66
Azeri Language Measures Favor 'Cultural Heritage' *[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 9 Feb]* 66
NKAO Administration Committee Meets 16 Feb *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Feb]* 67
Obkom Official Queried on Electoral, Refugee Issues *[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 9 Feb]* 69
KGB Official Comments on Far East Zones Red Tape *[IZVESTIYA 17 Feb]* 70
Moscow Air Traffic Controllers' Dispute Drags On *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Feb]* . 70
New Combined Control, Auditing Organs To Be Set Up *[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 12 Feb]* 72
Call for Party To 'Rebuff' Informals' Actions *[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Feb]* 73
Workers Provide 'Profound' Lessons About Press *[PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 76
Legal Specialist Urges Lifting Church Restrictions *[TASS]* 77
Freedom of Conscience Bill Draft Discussed *[TASS]* 78
RSFSR Doctors Sacked for Spread of HIV Virus *[Moscow Radio]* 78
Firings, Mass Testing Follow AIDS Outbreak *[IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]* 79

Problems With Moscow Health Care Examined *[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 11 Feb]* 79
Afghan Veterans Entitled to Special Health Care *[TASS]* 80
Radio Starts Commercial Advertising Service *[TASS]* 81

Agricultural

* Ligachev Addresses Food Production Seminar 6 Feb *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 7 Feb]* 81

Scientific

Space Probe Transmits First Images of Mars Moon *[TASS]* 89
'Cosmos-2004' Satellite Launched 22 Feb *[TASS]* 90

Military

Lushev on Restructuring, Defense Capability *[TASS]* 90
Gromov Named Commander of Kiev Military District
[London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Feb] 90
Yazov Meets Wounded Soldiers From Afghanistan *[TASS]* 91
Candidate People's Deputies Meet With Voters *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Feb]* 91
Voters Support Candidacy of General Kochetov *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Feb]* 91

16 U.S. Cruise Missiles Removed From Comiso

LD2002220289 Moscow TASS in English 2152 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Rome February 21 TASS—The second batch of 16 U.S. cruise missiles left a military base near the city of Comiso on Sicily on February 20.

The ANSA news agency reports that early in the morning powerful truck tractors with missiles accompanied by Italian police and carabinieri who took additional security measures, headed for a NATO airfield in Sigenella near the city of Catania. Two U.S. military transport planes were waiting for the column there. They were to take the missiles to the USA where they will be destroyed in compliance with the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

The ANSA agency reports that in contrast to the November "operation" during which the first 16 missiles were withdrawn from Comiso, the present evacuation was held in complete secrecy. Nobody of local or foreign journalists had been informed of it in advance.

Thus, 80 U.S. cruises now remain in Comiso.

U.S., UK Experts Inspect Antisubmarine Ship

LD2102144489 Moscow TASS in English 1431 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Sevastopol February 21 TASS—Under an agreement reached, the delegation of U.S. and British military and diplomatic experts on Tuesday visited Sevastopol, a port city on the Black Sea coast.

The guests visited the large anti-submarine ship Kerch, inspected its departments, armament, and accommodation space. They had a talk with officers and seamen during which experts received exhaustive answers to questions of interest to them.

Official Denies Nuclear Missiles Modernization

LD1802130189 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] The West is currently debating the issue of modernizing tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. These discussions have intensified in connection with the tour US State Secretary James Baker has just completed of NATO countries. Here is a statement by the first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Department, Vadim Perfilyev:

The Soviet stand is clear and definite, he emphasizes. This country does not engage in the modernization of tactical missiles. We contend that this would be a step back, not forward, in the cause of nuclear disarmament. But what's to happen further with the issue of modernization depends on the NATO countries. Many public and political figures in the West regard with skepticism the arguments used by NATO generals in attempts to prove the need for modernising NATO's nuclear potential. The latest Soviet steps, in particular the reduction of the European group of armed forces, tanks, atrillery pieces, and aircraft puncture [as heard] is the main argument used by the champions of modernization. The latter have said that the members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization have a superiority in conventional armaments. The reduction of conventional armed forces in Europe, a step being taken by the USSR, will equalize the military potentials of the two alliances, and this will in turn remove all ground for preserving tactical nuclear weapons in the arsenals of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization. It's apparently the fear of having to part with tactical nuclear weapons that's the driving force behind the NATO generals wanting modernization. Now, as to the issues linked with the existence of tactical nuclear weapons, they could be discussed at the Vienna talks on the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe—talks that are due to begin in March.

NATO Modernization Plans Called 'Arms Upgrading'

PM1702185789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by A. Balandin: "Modernization? No, Arms Upgrading"]

[Text] U.S. General John Galvin, supreme allied commander in Europe, has stated that the North Atlantic alliance in its military policy must continue to think in terms of "Soviet superiority" and not take any unilateral steps in the disarmament sphere. The role of nuclear missiles is extremely important to NATO and there can be no question of a "zero option" for tactical nuclear weapons, the general stressed.

As for modernization of Lance missiles, on which the Americans are insisting, the decision, according to Galvin, should be taken now, before it is too late. The U.S. Congress must this year provide the relevant appropriations for the development and testing of the new system.

The DPA press agency, citing the British-American Council for Security Issues, reports that the Pentagon intends to replace Lance missiles with multiple launchers with "much greater accuracy and greater range" (480 kilometers instead of 120). It intends to supply a total of 750 of the new launchers, each of which is capable of launching 2-6 missiles.

It is noted in the West that even according to the most modest estimates the implementation of the U.S. plans will increase NATO's combat might more than eight times over in this category of weapons. In that event the West would have a 2:1 advantage over the Warsaw Pact Organization in that class of armaments.

The West German paper BADISCHE ZEITUNG stresses in this connection that the NATO military leadership's proposal on modernizing tactical weapons is in fact "arms upgrading." FRG Chancellor H. Kohl, by denying the possibility of a "zero option" in this class of weapons and refusing to modernize them in the immediate future, finds himself in a difficult situation: He must not offend the allies and he must consider the Soviet initiatives.

H.-J. Vogel, chairman of the Social Democrats, has demanded a clear answer from the federal government: yes or no to the modernization and reduction of nuclear missiles.

It is no secret that the Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles produced a mixed reaction in NATO. The military elite regarded it as a "breach" in the structure of the Western alliance which must be urgently filled in some way. If ground-launched intermediate- and shorter-range missiles cannot be restored (the treaty bans that), it is necessary to seek compensation in another area before it is too late. And they have found it: Missiles with a range of up to 500 kilometers do not come under the ban.

The West still cannot imagine a future without nuclear weapons. At the moment, people there are only going along verbally with the idea of reasonable defensive sufficiency at the lowest possible level and without mass destruction weapons. And not all of them at that.

NATO Modernization, Disarmament Prospects Viewed
LD1902115289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] [Korshunov; presenter] A colloquium has been held in Paris on questions of European defense. There were many speakers, and among them was French Minister of Defense Jean-Pierre Chevenement. It is well-known that the so-called doctrine of nuclear deterrence still forms the basis of France's military policy. Thus, Chevenement affirmed that his country intends to rely on this same doctrine for the foreseeable future. The head of the French Defense Ministry considers it irresponsible to accept the prospects for freeing Europe from nuclear weapons. How, then, does this kind of statement accord with the trends which are now increasingly establishing themselves on the European Continent? I am addressing this question to my colleague, commentator Gennadiy Vedenyapin, who is with me in the studio.

[Vedenyapin] Military circles in France, and also Britain—two West European states that possess their own nuclear potentials—continue to refuse to think entirely in terms of a nuclear-free world. Claiming some special status for their nuclear arsenals, they continue to invent ever newer pretexts to validate the increase in their arsenals and their qualitative improvement: Let us wait until the nuclear weapons of the USSR and United States have first been substantially reduced, until the issue of chemical weapons has been resolved, until the Warsaw Pact's preponderance in conventional weapons has been eliminated, and so on. I will not go into detail; everyone knows it well. Everyone knows the significance of the Soviet-American treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles for the further process of nuclear disarmament. As is known, the negotiations on a fifty percent reduction in strategic offensive weapons are continuing. The progress toward complete elimination of chemical weapons has become more intensive, particularly since our country announced its decision to begin destroying its stocks as early as this year, and without waiting for the conclusion of a correspondent international convention. In short, the process of disarmament, both nuclear and conventional, is continuing. And, as eminent political and public figures in the West admit, a decisive contribution is being made to this by the restructuring process in our country, which is naturally unthinkable without restructuring in international affairs, too, on the basis of the new political thinking. The comprehensive Soviet program for disarmament, proposed 2 years ago, which provides for the elimination of nuclear weapons on the planet in three phases up to the year 2000, and under conditions where space strike weapons are banned, stipulates that in the first phase, France and Britain will not build up their long-range nuclear weapons, that they will freeze them in the second phase, and destroy them in the third phase.

[Korshunov] Gennadiy Aleksandrovich, it nevertheless turns out that Chevenement does not see prospects for freeing Europe from nuclear weapons?

[Vedenyapin] Well, perhaps he does not want to see them. He is not alone. Let us not, however, give way to deliberate reproach; let us admit that we ourselves did not manage to arrive at new thinking in the military sphere right away, either. It is another matter that, as admitted in the West, we have rushed ahead by proposing truly comprehensive disarmament measures. And we are moving forward in that direction. Well, not without caution, of course, but consistently and decisively. Chemical weapons, as I have already mentioned, are an example of this. However, the West, unfortunately—to be specific, the West German Social Democrat Egon Bahr spoke about this not very long ago—frequently proves politically and psychologically unprepared to provide an equivalent response here.

[Korshunov] Indeed, more than that; this response is sometimes of an entirely contrary nature. NATO circles are stubbornly insisting on the modernization of tactical nuclear weapons in Western Europe, attempting to compensate, so to speak, for the losses resulting from the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. For instance, American General Galvin, supreme commander of the joint NATO armed forces in Europe, is demanding that, say, tactical nuclear missiles with a range of 110 kilometers be replaced by new missiles with an operating radius of up to 450 kilometers, or according

to some data, 480 kilometers; that air-to-ground missiles should be mounted on fighter-bombers, which would increase the range of the aircraft's target engagement by 400 kilometers.

[Vedenyapin] Clearly, not all of Washington's NATO allies are delighted at this prospect, as they understand that it could lead to a new spiral in the arms race. At least the junior partners—Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Spain—are speaking out in favor of a Europe free of nuclear weapons. They are calling for the modernization to be postponed, at least for a year or so. Incidentally, even its proponents admit that from a technical point of view, at least, there is no need to start this work until 1992. So why is Washington insisting on this so stubbornly? It turns out that, in the words of THE FINANCIAL TIMES, the adherents of nuclear modernization are afraid that by that time, modernization will probably be politically impossible, in other words impossible under the conditions of new political thinking. This fear would also seem to explain why some people in the West still stubbornly refuse to see a Europe free of nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future.

*Warsaw Pact Forces, Budget Reduction Figures

WA18010187 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 6, 11-17 Feb 89 p 8

[Chart showing reduction of Warsaw Pact forces and budget figures]

[Text] "The Soviet Union has announced a reduction of its troops and arms, but what will be the volume of the reduction of the arms of other Warsaw Pact countries?" [signed] Ye. Mishin, Moscow

We received an answer to this question in the USSR Ministry of Defense.

Reduction of Armed Forces and Military Budgets in Warsaw Pact Countries [SVD]

Countries	Number of Troops Cut	Tanks	BTR	Guns and Mortars	Combat Aircraft	Reduction of Military Budget	Remarks
Bulgaria	10,000	200	—	200	20	12%	Cut by 5 warships
Hungary	9,300	251	30	430*	9	17%	*Including 180 antitank weapons
GDR	10,000	600	—	—	50	10%	
Poland	15,000	—	—	—	—	From 7.7% to 5.5% of the state budget	
Romania**	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Czechoslovakia	12,000	850	165	—	51	15%	Divisional and regimental tactical training sessions are being reduced by 50%, and combat fire by 25-30%
Total for SVD (not including USSR)	56,300	1,901	195	630*	130	—	*Including 180 antitank weapons
USSR in Europe	240,000	10,000	—	8,500	800	14.2%	The production of military equipment and arms is being reduced by 19.5%
Total for SVD in Europe	296,300	11,901	195	9,130*	930	—	*Including 180 antitank weapons
USSR in Asia	200,000	—	—	—	—	—	
USSR in the South	60,000	—	—	—	—	—	
Total for SVD	556,300	11,901	195	9,130*	930	—	*Including 180 antitank weapons

** In 1986 Romania reduced its military budget and arms by 5 percent.—editor's note

Western Correlation of Forces Method Criticized

PM2102175389 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 89 First Edition p 3

["Pertinent Remarks" by Lieutenant Colonel S. Leonidov: "To Get Away From 'Bean' Arithmetic"]

[Text] The Americans call the method of primitive arithmetical comparison "counting beans." It is rightly considered unsound for serious analysis. This naturally applies also to a subject such as the correlation of forces between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. Any Western establishment that is at all respectable and that is engaged in a study of this problem has long refrained from simply comparing the quantitative parameters of armed forces (tank for tank, gun for gun). To draw the conclusions necessary for domestic consumption, as it were, it looks at the sum total of such factors as firepower, mobility, the survivability of arms, and the ability of a certain formation to fulfill a set task.

But what about "counting beans"? Extensive use is made of this for propaganda purposes. And now, even before the ink has had time to dry on the final document of the Vienna meeting, people in the West have again launched numerical "arguments." They take, for example, the correlation of the number of divisions in the Warsaw Pact and NATO and say: The Warsaw Pact has almost three times as many. That is "counting beans."

Why? Because divisions differ. For many years now military research centers in the West have been using such a special unit as the "division equivalent" for calculations in this sphere. So, if you count in division equivalents, then, according to the data of the Rand Corporation, which is the Pentagon's think tank, the ratio of Warsaw Pact and NATO divisions will be substantially different—1.6 to 1.

Let us leave this figure too on Rand's conscience. It is not this that is important to us here but the methodology of the approach. Since the numbers of personnel, weapons, and combat hardware in divisions of the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries' armed forces differ, Western experts use special coefficients. Thus, the coefficient 1 is ascribed to the most powerful division in Europe—the U.S. armored division—while smaller coefficients are given to other divisions, both NATO and Warsaw Pact ones, in accordance with their combat potentials.

Western military scientific centers not only use the hypothetical division-equivalent units but also conduct a more profound and comprehensive analysis. With the help of mathematical or, as they are also called, dynamic models, for example, experts forecast the combat potentials of Warsaw Pact and NATO groupings and assess proposals advanced by the sides. Account is taken here of the dynamics of combat operations in space and time, the special features of the operational structure of the troops, their readiness to fight without delay, mobility indicators, and so forth. That is, there are none of the biases that occur when "counting beans," with the possible exception that calculations are made for a "worst-case scenario," which implies the Warsaw Pact's secret preparations for a surprise attack.

What do the results of mathematical modeling show? Let us cite as an example the conclusions drawn at a University of Chicago research center under the leadership of Prof Dzh. Mirsheymer [name as transliterated]: "In the event of a conflict with the Warsaw Pact the latter could only achieve a temporary and, moreover, local superiority in the central European theater of military operations. As for southern Europe, the prospects for NATO to conduct combat operations there appear more preferable."

All this attests to one thing at least. In the West there are those who champion sober assessments of the force correlations of the two blocs. However, their opinion drowns in the chorus of those who continue to engage in "counting beans."

Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine Viewed

PM2202105789 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 89 First Edition p 3

[First in a series of articles by Doctor of Historical Sciences L. Semeyko: "Toward New Strategic Stability"; first two paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] The concepts of stability and security are interconnected, the former being a key component of the latter. The task of strengthening them so as to reliably exclude any possibility of wars being unleashed can be resolved only through the mutual efforts of, above all, the mightiest military powers and military-political alliances—the USSR and the United States, the Warsaw Pact and NATO. It is, quite frankly, a difficult task, but a feasible one.

Today we publish the first article on some factors which have a positive or, conversely, a negative influence on strategic stability and international security.

1. Who Needs a Sword of Damocles

With the improving political climate on our planet it is possible to speak with confidence of the possibility of strengthening peace. The threat of aggression in both the nuclear and non-nuclear variants has receded by virtue of the positive development of the political factor. However, the threat of mutual destruction still lies at the military basis of stability and security. Within the framework of the existing parity nuclear weapons are regarded in the West as the chief deterrent: Using them to destroy the other side means being destroyed yourself. This is all the more likely because it is impossible to disarm each other even with a surprise strike. There is no denying that there is stability, but what kind of stability?

It describes by no means the best situation because it is extremely risky to base peace on nuclear foundations. An accidental nuclear launch, an unsanctioned strike, or a political miscalculation, as well as the escalation of even an insignificant non-nuclear conflict, could end mankind's existence. Under these conditions there can be no question of absolutely guaranteed strategic stability or absolute security. This is, if you like, the tragedy and the basic paradox of the present: In order to survive it is necessary, so it turns out, to ensure a guarantee of inevitable mutual destruction.

Common sense demands that a different strategic stability be ensured. It must be based on a simple premise: In order to eliminate the threat, it is necessary to eliminate

the means which pose it. So as not to live under a nuclear sword of Damocles, it is necessary to destroy the sword. The basis of security must be not the threat of capsizing the boat which we are all in but the strength of the boat itself—a nuclear-free boat.

The West's leaders do not deny such an approach in principle but maintain that a nuclear-free situation is far more risky, referring to the fact that two world wars have arisen in just such a situation. They say that returning to a nuclear-free situation means being under a different sword of Damocles—becoming the victim of a third world war in which, as in the past, only conventional but far more powerful weapons would be used. And so nuclear potentials must be preserved indefinitely. We essentially have here a statement of the hopelessness of the nuclear stalemate which today's highly fragile stability presupposes.

The USSR and the Warsaw Pact proceed from a fundamentally different military-political philosophy. The strength and stability of the "nuclear-free boat" can be ensured only on condition that its design is radically revised so that it absolutely cannot turn turtle. In other words, the sides must not "regulate" nuclear arms but, in eliminating them, they must at the same time render impossible a surprise attack and broad offensive operations using conventional means.

The difference of approach here is fundamental. Being the result of the historically evolved nuclear confrontation, the present stability provides for the existence of huge nuclear arsenals, while the stability of the future provides for their absence. The former is associated with a high level of military confrontation, and the latter with the lowest possible level in accordance with the principle of reasonable defensive sufficiency. The former proceeds from fear of the threat of a surprise (counterforce) nuclear strike with subsequent large-scale offensive strikes at the whole range of targets. The latter—non-nuclear stability—rests not on fear but on the absence of fear, on confidence in security, because both sides would be devoid of the means for a surprise attack or for mounting offensive operations at all. On the whole, the stability of today's nuclear world assumes that an extremely high risk attaches to aggression involving strategic offensive arms and huge nuclear arsenals in general. The stability of a nuclear-free world presupposes the exclusively defensive thrust of military doctrines and a gamble on minimal non-nuclear potentials.

The transition to a new form of strategic stability—the only one justified in political and military respects—is a complex and very difficult process. But it has already begun. First, the elimination of nuclear arsenals has begun—which is of truly historic significance. Second, both the reduction of armed forces and their switch to an exclusively defensive structure have also begun, even if this switch on our part is so far unilateral. Third, a dialogue will begin 6 March between the Warsaw Pact and NATO members on conventional armed forces in Europe.

In the mandate for the upcoming talks agreed in Vienna their participants pledged to make a contribution to achieving stability and security. Several areas are envisaged: the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional armed forces (including conventional arms and hardware) at a lower level; and the elimination, as a priority, of the potential for making a surprise attack and carrying out large-scale offensive operations. These are precisely the ideas first advanced by the Warsaw Pact states in Budapest in 1986 and later developed and firmed up in Berlin in 1987 and in Warsaw in 1988.

The mandate for the talks envisages that nuclear weapons will not be a topic for discussion. But it does not exclude discussion of dual-purpose conventional arms, that is, those that are also capable of carrying nuclear weapons. Both the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries welcome the USSR and U.S. efforts toward a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms and wish the current talks success. Many figures not only in the Warsaw Pact but also in NATO countries now advocate beginning a separate examination of the issue of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. All this is creating the necessary basis for a consistent, mutual switch to more reliable security, first in the present nuclear world and then also in a nuclear-free world.

J. Tower, the new U.S. defense secretary, favors strategic stability, as he recently declared. Good, you might think. But, unfortunately, the stand which he proclaimed in the Senate cannot fail to cause concern. "The United States and the free world are still threatened by a serious danger," the Pentagon chief groundlessly claims. "This danger has not diminished in the era of restructuring and glasnost." Tower advocates investing SDI in the "overall deterrent potential," whereas, in the final analysis, such an "investment" can only be negative. The secretary is against U.S.-NATO measures for a unilateral reduction of armed forces; he is for modernizing not only tactical nuclear weapons but also conventional weapons without delay.

To what does this attest? To the fact that really sound stability can be ensured in a difficult struggle. The old political thinking, which proceeds from the primacy of military might—nuclear might, above all—and from the strengthening of one's own security with increasingly sophisticated and even fundamentally new means of armed struggle, is a tenacious way of thinking.

Lasting peace is possible only by way of ensuring the equal, mutual security of both sides—the USSR and the United States, the Warsaw Pact and NATO—given their adherence to truly defensive military doctrines. This aspect of the new political thinking is receiving increasingly wide recognition in the world.

Military Official Cited on CW Conference

PM2102174189 London MORNING STAR in English 21 Feb 89 p 4

[Interview with Colonel General Vladimir Pikalov, chief of Chemical Troops of the Soviet Defense Ministry, by NOVOSTI'S Valeriy Borisenko: "Tightening Up the Ban;"—date, place not given]

[Text] [Borisenko] In its concluding declaration, the recent international conference in Paris on the prohibition of chemical weapons, unanimously reaffirmed the ban on their use which was first included in the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Why is it essential to work out a new agreement?

[Pikalov] Unfortunately, the protocol signed over 60 years ago is not a universal document. It does not outlaw research and development in the field of chemical weapons and delivery systems. It does not ban the production and stockpiling of toxic agents either. And a tendency toward the proliferation of such weapons has appeared.

[Borisenko] Considering the success of the recent international forum in Paris on chemical weapons, is there a hope for an early agreement banning chemical weapons?

[Pikalov] The negotiating process has been stepped up and the efforts of the Soviet delegation have made it possible to resolve virtually all the political problems related to chemical disarmament. This has created a solid basis for tackling specific technical problems. The Soviet proposal for experimental inspections at industrial facilities has won broad backing. Fourteen nations have already pledged to make their data on national experiments available to the committee on chemical weapons by next autumn. The Soviet Union made its information on national experiments available to the committee in December last year.

[Borisenko] What is hampering the talks?

[Pikalov] Although in general the delegations are fairly active, you get the impression that what you see now is some pre-arranged recession. Take the disagreement over Articles IV and V of the draft convention (these articles cover the elimination of chemical weapons, stockpiles and production facilities.) France has now tabled a proposal for states to keep a so-called "security stock" of chemical weapons. Before that both articles had been virtually agreed. The proposal was supported by the US delegation, although a majority of the delegates described it as unacceptable. Figuratively speaking, the articles are now threatened with a "drifting delayed-action torpedo." the purpose it seems is to justify the programme for acquiring binary chemical weapons. If this "security stock" was retained and the chemical weapon production facilities were maintained in a form permitting their rapid reactivation, the convention would actually legitimise a state's right to use chemical weapons at its discretion. This would inevitably lead to the modernisation of chemical weapon production, the development of new, even deadlier, types of such weapons, and the training of personnel to handle them. Thus, all other articles in the convention would be undermined. The discussion of these problems will inevitably prolong the talks. If the proposal is accepted, the period leading up to the convention's implementation may become especially destabilising. The right and the temptation to have such a "stock" will stimulate the countries which possess chemical weapons to build up their arsenals, will provoke the further proliferation of chemical weapons.

[Borisenko] Is the "security stock" issue the central problem at the talks?

[Pikalov] On the whole, one can single out three groups of delaying factors. The first, the US programme for the production of binary chemical weapons and France's "security stock" concept. These are linked. Second, the desire of Western countries to build up and modernise their chemical arsenals before a convention is ratified. And third, Western delegations, primarily the US, are blocking the solution of the problem of verifying that chemical weapons are not being produced and developed by commercial enterprises, first of all, by the transnational corporations. One can clearly discern yet another, indirect, factor hinderng the talks. That is desire of Western delegations—primarily the US again—to uncover as much as possible of our chemical warfare capability without assuming any commitments under international law.

The Soviet Union is already doing its best to clear the road leading to the convention. Of its own free will the USSR stated at summit level that it has never transferred chemical weapons to anyone and has never used them, that it has never stored and does not store such weapons in other countries. And finally, the Soviet Union has announced the amount of toxic agents it has. No other state has done that so far. And the latest initiative the Soviet Union announced in Paris was that it will begin the elimination of chemical weapons in 1989 at a specially built facility. To make the talks a success each party should walk its half of the way.

Perfilyev Gives Foreign Ministry Briefing 21 Feb

Shevardnadze To Visit Iraq

LD2102144589 Moscow TASS in English 1434 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze begins his official visit to Iraq on February 23, Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said at a briefing here on Tuesday.

He noted that the Soviet Union has had friendly relations with that country for many years, which are built on the solid foundation of the treaty of friendship and cooperation.

"Our countries conduct an intensive political dialogue, successfully develop trade and economic cooperation, and maintain broad contacts of public and other organisations. The Soviet side expresses readiness to update the forms of this cooperation."

Perfilyev told journalists that the talks in Baghdad would concern the settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict, prospects for developing the negotiating process between Iraq and Iran, and the situation in the Persian Gulf. "We believe that an intensive quest for ways to solve problems dividing Iraq and Iran is needed. It is important to develop the negotiating process, steadily moving toward the establishment of peace and stability in the region".

International problems and various aspects of the Middle East settlement will feature prominently in the Soviet minister's talks in Iraq.

TV Remarks Said 'Regrettable'

LD2102222489 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 21 Feb 89

[For further reportage on the V. Zorin remarks concerning Iraq and Iran, see the Near East & South Asia section of today's DAILY REPORT]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman was asked at Tuesday's briefing at the ministry's press centre to comment on television commentator Valentin Zorin's remarks on Iraq and Iran, made in the "Today in the World" news programme on February 17.

"Of course, we paid attention to the Soviet journalist's remarks in the February 17 news programme, related to some aspects of the situation in Iraq and Iran," answered Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

"It is regrettable that our television journalist, in quoting propaganda reports by some Western mass media bodies was uncritical in using them," he said.

"We hope that Iraq and Iran will understand that Zorin's regrettable remarks in no way reflect the official Soviet stance that is well known to both countries," Perfilyev said.

End to Afghan Arms Deliveries Sought

LD2102135889 Moscow TASS in English 1351 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—The termination of arms deliveries to warring parties would be the most effective step towards the end of bloodshed in Afghanistan, Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy head of the Information Directorate of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing here today.

"We are positive that if a political settlement is to be discussed seriously and sincerely, it is necessary to give up playing with figures and calculating the amount of weapons accumulated in Afghanistan by each of the sides. It is vital to take to the path of the termination of arms deliveries, of ceasefire", he said.

Afghan Ambassador on State of Emergency

LD2102142589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1341 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow 21 Feb (TASS)—"As before, we believe that the one and only way of stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan is to continue the policy aimed at reconciliation, dialogue, and a political solution to the Afghan issue," Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Afghanistan to the USSR said today at a press briefing held in the USSR Foreign Ministry press center.

On 15 February this year, the last units of the limited Soviet contingent withdrew completely from Afghanistan, and thereby the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union fulfilled their obligations under the Geneva accords, he said. The ambassador expressed sorrow over the fact that the other parties—Pakistan and the United States—had not merely not fulfilled their undertakings under the Geneva accords, but quite the reverse—are increasing their interference and their supplies of arms to Afghanistan via Pakistan.

The ambassador said the only sure way out of the situation that has arisen is the introduction of the state of emergency in Afghanistan. At the same time, he stressed that "in no way does this mean that we have abandoned the course of national reconciliation." The declaration of the state of emergency pursues a single purpose—to maintain an independent, neutral, and nonaligned Afghanistan, and to establish peace in the country.

Daily Reviews 'The Satanic Verses' Controversy

PM2202123989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Review prepared by A. Ivanko in Moscow and A. Krivopalov in London: "Book and Politics"]

[Text] The atmosphere around the writer S. Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" has aroused a storm of indignation in a number of Muslim countries, is continuing to be fueled. As already reported, S. Rushdie's book is regarded by Muslim fundamentalists as sacrilege. Ayatollah Khomeyni has sentenced the writer "to death," refusing to alter his decision even after Rushdie publicly apologized to Muslims.

In Brussels on Monday the foreign ministers of the EEC countries issued a statement which says, in particular: "Our 12 countries express an interest in the development of normal and constructive relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, if Iran also adheres to this opinion, it must declare its allegiance to international obligations and renounce the use or threat of force."

In protest at the ayatollah's statement the EEC countries have recalled the leaders of their diplomatic missions from Tehran "for consultation." Sir G. Howe, Britain's foreign secretary, has reported that his country is recalling all its diplomats from Iran. According to a report from IZVESTIYA's own correspondent, G. Howe arrived in the Belgian capital from London with several options for the next demarche. The recall of the diplomatic mission from Tehran was the most extreme one. But since the "Common Market" countries were unanimous there, precisely this card was thrown onto the table.

London hopes that the British diplomats will be able to leave Tehran within 48 hours of the announcement of their recall. It is said of the two Iranian representatives in the British capital that they will leave within the "next few days."

Many critics highly appraise the literary merit of the novel "The Satanic Verses." TIME magazine believes that Rushdie's work in no way offends Islam, but in order to realize this it is necessary to read the novel right through.

The French newspaper LE MONDE writes in greater detail about the causes which have aroused such stormy protests: "One chapter particularly shocked the Muslim fundamentalists. It describes how the prophet Mahound (Muhammad) writes a book, which readers have taken to be the Koran, under dictation from some archangel actor, who a few pages later turns out to be Satan himself. The prophet detects the deception and strikes these 'verses' (suras) inspired by Lucifer from the holy book. One Arab historian supposedly noticed several centuries ago that the Koran is short of a few suras.... "From the viewpoint of the orthodox Muslim all this is undoubtedly blasphemy."

M. Karrubi, one of the leading religious figures in Iran, called the EEC decision "propaganda." He also declared that all associated with the book's publication "must die." A number of Islamic figures in other countries have supported the calls for Rushdie to be killed.

An unknown person called UPI and, calling himself a representative of the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" organization, reported that if Rushdie does not come out of hiding then British embassies and offices of the British airline abroad will be attacked.

The ballyhoo raised over the novel has put it among the leading bestsellers in Britain and the United States.

Stop Press

News agencies report that Iran has declared that it is recalling its ambassadors from the EEC countries as a countermeasure to the "Common Market's" analogous demarche. IRNA reports that the Foreign Ministry has declared that "respect for Islam and its values continues to remain for Iran an immutable principle in its relations with other countries."

UN Discussion of Palestine Situation Viewed

LD1802213489 Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] New York February 17 TASS—Non-aligned countries, members of the Security Council, resumed on Friday the discussion of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. They circulated a draft resolution expressing extreme concern over the heightening of suffering and continued violation of human rights resulting from Israel's policy and actions, and pointed to the need to stop such actions as frustrate the efforts toward achieving peace in the Middle East and ending the Israeli occupation.

It was proposed that the Security Council emphasise the urgent need to achieve under the United Nations auspices a comprehensive, fair and durable settlement to the Middle East conflict to which the Palestine problem is central, and proclaim its resolve to act to achieve this aim.

USSR permanent representative at the United Nations Aleksandr Belonogov spoke at the meeting on Friday. He said the Soviet Union condemns Israel's policy of terror, violence and reprisals against the Arab population of the occupied territories. Efforts of the international community to achieve a comprehensive, fair and durable peace in the Middle East by convening an international conference are hampered by Tel Aviv's unwillingness to give up methods of power politics, methods that are dated, by its refusal to admit that the Palestinian people, just as the Israeli people, has the right to decide its destiny.

The Security Council cannot and must not remain indifferent to acts of arbitrariness and lawlessness systematically perpetrated by occupiers on Arab lands. Special concern is caused by the fact that the present stage of the escalation of this policy of violence and reprisals takes place now that for the first time over many years real opportunities for achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement, have opened.

In this connection the Soviet representative noted that there is a broad international consent to a comprehensive settlement by convening a conference on the Middle East under the United Nations auspices with the participation of all the parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as well as with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

An international conference, as a universal mechanism for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, will make it possible to implement the principle of balancing the interests of all the sides by the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to independence in the same measure in which it is ensured for the people of Israel, to return to Arabs their lands on the basis of the Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338, to enable all Middle Eastern peoples and states to live in conditions of peace and security.

The members of the Security Council who, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, bear special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace must show the necessary political will and use the unique chance to begin the process of Middle East settlement. He emphasised that of special importance for the beginning of this process is the request of the United Nations General Assembly that the Security Council discuss measures to convene an international peace conference and to start the preparation for it.

Future of Western Economic Sanctions Considered

PM2102162589 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Feb 89 Second Edition p 3

[Article by A. Bogomolov: "Fetters for Mercury; Disputes on the Point of the West's Economic Sanctions Against the Socialist Countries"]

[Text] When, approximately 18 months ago, the Japanese authorities, with the assent of the Americans, declared the Toshiba Kikai firm to be in violation of the West's unified restrictions on trade with the USSR, many newspapers printed a photograph showing U.S. congressmen smashing Toshiba tape recorders. In Japan itself one extreme right-wing group attacked the firm's headquarters.

At the time, despite the already considerable progress in East-West relations, the Toshiba story and the overtly thuggish reaction to the firm's "crime" did not particularly surprise anyone. After all, according to the Pentagon the company had "damaged Western security" by supplying the USSR with complex metal working machine tools, which made it possible to create "noiseless propellers for Soviet submarines." Toshiba was severely punished for the edification of the potentially disobedient, deprived for a year of the right to trade with the socialist countries, and fined 2 million yen.

The supporters of sanctions could celebrate victory. It seemed the policy of banning deliveries of any high-technology output to the East introduced by the Coordinating Committee for the Control of Exports to the Socialist Countries (COCOM) after Soviet troops were brought into Afghanistan had confirmed its right to exist in the new international conditions.

At the time it was difficult to believe that in February 1989 State Department Spokesman Charles Redman would state the new administration's intention to embark "on a review of the COCOM embargo policy." It is true that he went on to say that this "will in no way weaken COCOM's export regime and will not make it easier for important technology to enter the USSR."

"We will block the sale of militarily important technology to the Eastern bloc," Redman said.

This sounds tough in form, but fair in essence. As long as opposing military blocs exist, until the danger of a world war has vanished, no one can seriously fight for Mercury, the god of trade, to be turned into the messenger of the god Mars or for the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries to set up a brisk trade in tanks, shells, volley fire plans, and so forth. After all, we also have similar regulations for export output.

The Paris-based coordination committee now includes 16 countries—all the NATO states except Iceland, and Japan. Its activity is built on unanimity. But 8 years ago, when COCOM "punished" the Soviet Union for Afghanistan, there was no unanimity among its members regarding the sensibility of these measures.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan lent new impetus to these disputes since the actual reason for the existing tough sanctions is no longer valid. However strange it may seem, the "instigator" was Britain, which is considered an even tougher supporter of the sanctions than the United States. This is explained by the intensifying political pressure on Thatcher's government from businessmen who see broad potential markets in the East.

Which way are the scales tilting? The answer to this question depends largely on the position of President Bush himself. It must be noted that voices in favor of repealing the discriminatory restrictions on trade with our country have been heard increasingly frequently in

the United States recently. Recently, even ex-Congressman C. Vanik, one of the authors of the Jackson-Vanik amendment which links granting the USSR most-favored nation status in trade with the USSR with our country's emigration policy, spoke in favor of its temporary repeal. In his opinion it is time to grant the USSR the status which the overwhelming majority of the partners of the United States enjoy. According to the U.S. press, in this sense Vanik is supported by many U.S. congressmen and it is not out of the question that the issue will be submitted for examination by the present session of the supreme legislative organ of the United States.

In an interview with THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Bush said that he was "not prepared to set out his position."

"But I am prepared to say," the president added, "that if specific steps are taken according with the interests of improving relations, the interests of peace throughout the world, we must be aware of this and pay tribute and not be ill-disposed toward the Soviet Union."

Volkov Reviews ICAO Forum on Air Terrorism

PM2002123189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 89 Second Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Shelkov dispatch under the rubric "Details": "Curbing Aircraft Terrorism"]

[Text] Montreal—The International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] Council special session in Montreal is over. The forum participants, representing all 33 of the council's member states, exchanged opinions on ways of stepping up the fight against international terrorism in air transport.

PRAVDA's correspondent asked A.N. Volkov, head of the Soviet delegation and USSR minister of civil aviation, to comment on the reasons for convening the ICAO Council special session and on the decisions and stance adopted by our country on this issue.

"The problem of protecting air transport from acts of terrorism has been sharply exacerbated recently," the minister said. "The aim of this session was to emphasize the importance of closer cooperation between states and the need to improve security measures. Practice shows that today no state can feel absolutely secure in the face of possible terrorist threats. In this respect the ICAO's organizing role in coordinating the actions of states is indeed unique.

"On the basis of this position, our delegation proposed working out a comprehensive plan for action to put a stop to terrorism in air transport. In particular, it advocated the elaboration of a convention on the prevention of incidents in overwater airspace. There has already been some experience of cooperation in this area—under the agreements between the USSR and the United States, Britain, the FRG, and Japan, for instance. The Soviet delegation also proposed setting up a permanent ICAO center to organize cooperation between states in combating acts of illegal interference. On what basis did we make that proposal? We believe that states should be able to get the necessary assistance from the ICAO at any moment.

"As for our partners' positions, one could spotlight the following proposals: studying the possibility of detecting explosives carried in radio apparatus (it was announced at the session that it was explosives hidden in a tape recorder that destroyed the Boeing over Scotland—V.S.); and setting up a special fund to finance various research projects—through a levy of $1 per international air traveler, for instance.

"We in our country are taking measures aimed at equipping airports with more sophisticated boarding inspection equipment. The quality of training given to the relevant personnel has been improved. A number of amendments and changes are being made to normative documents."

Shevardnadze's Vienna CSCE Visit Reviewed

LD1902130989

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1443 GMT on 18 February carries a 40-minute report by Georgiy Zubkov from Vienna. He reports from the January 1989 meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Zubkov reviews the significance of the Final Document which he says is the result of many months of discussion and compromise to reach consensus on every point.

The video shows the celebration ball following the Vienna meeting at which Zubkov speaks briefly with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, Soviet delegate to the CSCE Yuriy Borisovich Kashlev, and Soviet Ambassador Roland Mikhailovich Timberayev.

Zubkov's report continues over a video of Shevardnadze signing a document at the Vienna International Center. Zubkov notes that the signing of a UN convention on drug smuggling was timed to coincide with the closure of the Vienna meeting. The video then switches to a scene of Shevardnadze addressing a crowd of journalists. Shevardnadze says, "We believe this is a major success. This shows that the peoples and states are aware of the danger drugtaking presents for mankind, especially for young people. It is a terrible epidemic, and all people of goodwill should unite their efforts to overcome this terrible danger."

Zubkov then says that many journalists from all countries tried to speak with Shevardnadze at events surrounding the Vienna meeting. He said that questions about the Berlin Wall were asked frequently. Video

shows Shevardnadze addressing journalists, saying, "This is the third time I have had to answer that question. Journalists, too, I think should keep up with the press, strange as it may seem. I want to say with all frankness that the Berlin Wall is the internal affair of the German Democratic Republic, and we have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of that soveriegn state. I would not advise others to do that, either." Over video of photographers taking photographs of Shevardnadze, Zubkov says the journalists were interested in the Soviet leadership's attitude toward urgent problems of contacts between people and toward entry and exit from the country by Soviet citizens. The video returns to footage of Shevardnadze addressing journalists, saying, "This concerns very many states, and if one talks about emigration from the Soviet Union, for instance, beginning from the oldest of times, this means that millions of (Soviet) people are living in countries in the East and in the West. We believe that they should also have the right as well as the opportunity, a real opportunity, to study their mother tongue, read literature in their mother tongue and not lose (words indistinct), so to speak, spiritual ties with their country. This is a very great problem which will need serious and profound study with the participation of all states. Otherwise, if we do not proceed in this fashion, we will have to open the Red Book, and we do not want that." Shevardnadze refers to the Red Book of endangered species.

The video then returns to the ballroom in Vienna and shot of Vienna streets.

Consultations With EEC End in Brussels
LD1802102389 Moscow TASS in English 1509 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Brussels February 17 TASS—Two-day consultations between the USSR and the European Economic Community ended here today. They were called to prepare a draft agreement on commercial and economic cooperation between the two sides. The Soviet delegation was led by Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and the EEC delegation—by the deputy general director of the chief board of the European Communities Commission. The head of the Soviet delegation was received by Frans Andriessen, vice-chairman of the commission.

Both sides have noted the appreciable progress made in the course of the consultations. A spokesman of the European Communities Commission said that this could allow the commission to submit to the EEC Ministerial Council shortly a draft mandate for the conclusion of such an agreement.

Head of Mission to European Communities Named
LD1702105789 Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Vladimir Shemyatenkov has been appointed head of the Soviet mission to the European Communities, it was announced here on Friday.

Born in 1938, he holds a doctorate in economics and has held a number of senior posts on the staff of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and abroad.

In 1970-73 Shemyatenkov was councillor of the Soviet Embassy in Somalia.

United States & Canada

Bush Briefs Press on SDI, Mideast Policy

LD2102214189 Moscow TASS in English 2126 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Washington February 21 TASS—President of the United States Bush held Tuesday a brief press conference in the White House. Questions of the United States foreign policy were touched upon during it.

Bush was asked about his attitude to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) in connection with the review conducted by the administration as to what prospects the programme has.

"I'm not ruling anything in or out," George Bush said.

"I have stated my support for the principle of SDI. I have not favoured what some would call 'premature deployment'. But on the other hand I will be very interested in seeing what this overall review comes up with and I'm not going to close any doors or open any in regards to this or any other systems. We're going to have to make some tough choices on defence. I'm aware of that and so let's wait and see what the review produces".

The head of the U.S. Administration was asked his opinion if there exists a "vacuum" in the U.S. Middle East policy, about the lack of a foreign policy programme of the new U.S. leadership and about the "go-slow" attitude of the administration as regards the foreign policy review announced by Bush. "I've never heard such an outrageous hypothesis", Bush said. "And we have a foreign policy. We are reviewing appropriately East-West relations, the way we look at South America", the President said. "We've established and are following on with certain principles that are out there".

Asked about the content of the administration's Middle East policy the President went no further than generalised words. Bush said that the USSR should be playing a "limited role" in the Middle East.

Replying the question about his reaction to Iran's threats against the author of the controversial book "The Satanic Verses", the threat in response to which West European governments recalled their ambassadors from Tehran, Bush emphasised that he strongly supported the EEC declaration. He described Iran's steps as "deeply offensive to the norms of civilised behaviour". "Should any action be taken against American interests, the Government of Iran can expect to be held accountable", Bush said.

Bush Interview Touches on Soviet Troop Cut

LD2102231989 Moscow TASS in English 2209 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo February 21 TASS—U.S. President George Bush has said that the U.S. Administration welcomes the Soviet Union's decision to reduce unilaterally its armed forces by 500,000 as "a positive step in the right direction." He pointed out in an interview with the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency of Japan that the U.S. "looks forward to the full implementation of the force cuts described by chairman Gorbachev". The head of the U.S. Administration said that "even with these reduction, however, the Warsaw Pact has far to go to correct the conventional forces imbalance in Europe".

The President described arms control as a major priority of his administration. "We welcome and look forward to the negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE). We, along with our NATO allies, will seek in CFE to enhance stability and security at a lower level of forces."

Bush said that his administration was "in the process of reviewing elements of our policy toward the Soviet Union, and consulting closely foundation for long-term progress in East-West relations". He pointed out that "Secretary of State Baker and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will have several opportunities in the months ahead to begin addressing the main issues between our countries."

The head of the U.S. Administration said that the U.S. "will continue to work for peace, democracy, freedom and justice around the world. The scope of America's vision is global, and we will continue to shoulder the obligations that belong to a global power.

"At the same time...it is important that our allies assume greater responsibility in the cause of global peace and prosperity", he said. This concerns in the first place the military sphere and the rendering of assistance to the countries which are of strategic importance to Washington. Mentioning in this connection U.S.-Japanese relations, President Bush welcomed Japan's pledge to make further significant increases in overseas development assistance programs.

U.S. Poll Findings Show Approval of Bush

PM2102141589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 89 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Americans Approve"]

[Text] New York, 20 Feb—Almost two-thirds of Americans approve of George Bush's activity in the post of U.S. President. This is the outcome of a public opinion poll conducted 13-14 February by the firm of Yankelovich, Clancy, and Shulman for TIME magazine and the CNN-TV company.

Half of those polled trust the head of the White House more than the U.S. Congress to resolve the country's problems. Some 30 percent believe that the legislators can cope better with this.

Bush Team Sends 'Contradictory Signals'

PM1702141589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 89 First Edition p 3

[Manki Ponomarev "Observer's Opinion": "Washington: Contradictory Signals"]

[Text] It is nearly 4 weeks since George Bush replaced Ronald Reagan as U.S. President. Of course this is too little time to predict in what areas the new administration is going to develop its activities, what objectives it has, and what methods it intends to use to reach them. But as for the foreign policy sphere, certain conclusions are already suggesting themselves, although both G. Bush and his secretary of state, J. Baker, have recently been at pains to point out that they need time to dot the i's, identify the priorities in U.S. international policy, and outline new appraisals. In short, to look around and choose the path they should take.

It is entirely natural and legitimate that the new administration should want to give its own appraisal of the world situation, above all on such key questions as relations with the Soviet Union, talks on strategic and conventional armaments, chemical weapons, the situation in Central America and in the Near East, the problem of developing countries' debts, and others—particularly when you consider that in recent weeks the political complexion of Bush himself has markedly changed. Instead of a person who, as vice president, was in R. Reagan's shadow, obedient and endeavoring not to make his own mark on U.S. policy, and dealing mainly with protocol and ceremonial procedures, the picture is forming of a man who intends to follow his own course and not cover the same ground as past White House incumbents.

Whereas at first both Soviet and foreign observers were pretty unanimous in stating that the key word that would characterize G. Bush's activity as President was "continuity" (indeed, Bush himself kept saying that), now this is mentioned increasingly rarely. This does not mean that there has been an abrupt change in U.S. policy in the past month. At the moment at least it is more a matter of style than of substance. But the key word today, I would say, to describe U.S. policy is the word "caution."

The U.S. Administration is clearly in no hurry to present new ideas and proposals on problems of Soviet-U.S. relations and "East-West" problems, as they say over there in general, although Washington is aware that against the background of the Soviet Union's foreign policy activity and its major peace initiatives dilatoriness and passivity could be very detrimental politically in the eyes of the international public. The same applies to other foreign policy aspects. "We believe," Secretary of State J. Baker never tires of saying, "that the approach to East-West relations must be cautious and realistic."

What can one say in this connection? Of course, caution is certainly a positive quality if you compare it with the crazy cowboy antics in the international arena which were a feature of the first period of Reagan's presidency, combined with the total ideologization of relations with the Soviet Union and unremitting pursuit of military superiority. But is it possible in our interrelated and interdependent world to discount the time factor? Does peace actually benefit from delays in elaborating U.S. positions at disarmament negotiations and in replying to the Soviet Union's peace initiatives and the ideas put forward in M.S. Gorbachev's address at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly? After all, it is 2 and ½ months since that speech!

That is why we are listening so intently to the signals coming from the United States, making comparisons, and trying to understand what they mean. I will admit that sometimes these signals are so contradictory, so at odds with one another, that they appear to come from different sources and from people with diametrically opposite views, not members of the same White House team.

Indeed, let us listen to the new President. He promised to continue the course toward a "new closeness" in relations with the USSR. "I want," G. Bush said, "first of all to carry out an extensive evaluation of the Soviet Union and of the direction we see it taking, and also to evaluate what I, as President, can do to contribute to this process, to contribute to an improvement on our relations." He has repeatedly stressed the high priority he gives to the question of banning chemical weapons and has even said that he would like to go down in history as the President who, together with his allies and other countries, brought about the destruction of chemical weapons. Finally, in his policy speech at the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives, G. Bush—for the first time in many, many years—proposed, albeit for only 1 year, postponing the increase in appropriations for military purposes, keeping them at the 1989 level.

There are other signals suggesting that realism will increasingly establish itself in U.S. policy. For example, the commencement of the Washington administration's review of its position vis-a-vis the ban on exports of modern technology to the Soviet Union or the proposal to obtain a repeal of the legislative amendment, adopted by Congress in 1974, which is a barrier to the development of trade and economic links with the USSR. One might also cite the U.S. Defense Department's decision to reduce its involvement in major NATO military maneuvers in Western Europe; in particular, not to hold the "Reforger" exercise this year and to reduce its scale in the future.

One can only welcome all this. But the amazing thing is that parallel with this, there is a continuous sequence of signals of quite a different kind—signals to the effect that influential political circles in the United States and their representatives will not even contemplate new political thinking and have no intention of building relations with the Soviet Union other than from a position of strength.

Take, for example, the speeches by J. Tower, who has been appointed (but not yet confirmed as) U.S. defense secretary. This representative of the military industrial complex—until recently he was a paid consultant for major military-industrial corporations—never tires of saying that the United States is obliged to maintain its military might "at the proper level" and follow the path of modernizing both nuclear and conventional armaments in Europe. "Modernization is inevitable," he categorically states. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has talked about the anti-Soviet pronouncements of B. Scowcroft, assistant to the President for national security affairs, who operates on the basis that the cold war continues. Even J. Baker makes statements like "the Soviet Union remains a very well armed power with interests hostile toward the United States."

But despite the dissonant chord struck in the modern world by speeches of this kind, even greater unease is caused by U.S. practical actions. The aggressive element in its policy remains. It has abandoned none of its military- technical programs and is still banking on achieving military superiority and bringing the Soviet Union to economic exhaustion. Moreover, the Pentagon has devised plans for the modernization of the entire range of U.S. nuclear armaments over a 20-year period, the main thrust being set out in "Report 2010," published in the United States. Tests of a new cruise missile which uses Stealth technology and has a range of 4,000 km and 200-kiloton warhead are starting on Canadian territory. The plan is to manufacture 1,500 of these missiles. The modernization of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in Europe is in the offing.

All this shows that the majority of those who determine Washington's foreign and military policy are still of the old, confrontational frame of mind. Even the mosty liberal U.S. politicians think in terms of constant rivalry between the USSR and the United States. Right-centrist circles, to which belong or from which emerged most of the people in the new administration, see the Soviet Union as an implacable rival and believe that the focus of international diplomacy must be shifted from the question of world peace to the question of world order.

The contradictory nature of the signals from Washington, against the background of the "caution" there, must be taken into account in the formation and implementation of Soviet foreign policy and policy in defense building. When he addressed the United Nations, M.S. Gorbachev stressed that the U.S. Administration headed by G. Bush will find that the Soviet Union is a partner that is prepared, without long pauses and backtracking, to continue dialogue in the spirit of realism, openness, and goodwill, with a desire for concrete results. At the same time, it is high time everyone realized that force and the threat of force cannot bring success in the nuclear age, and the buildup of military might anmd neglect of relations of cooperation cannot make any power omnipotent.

Baker Briefs House Committee on Foreign Policy

LD2202102189 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Washington February 22 TASS—In his three-hour public hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker submitted the administration's request of 19,300 million dollars for foreign policy activities in 1990 fiscal year. James Baker devoted most of his speech to American-Soviet relations.

He said that on his whirlwind trip of NATO capitals last week he discovered that a common approach was necessary to new military realities that appeared following the conclusion of the INF Treaty, that it was necessary to elaborate a comprehensive concept in questions of security, modernisation of armaments and control over armaments.

He put forward a number of principles which, he believes, the United States and its allies should be guided by in the relations with the USSR. "We should continue to welcome and encourage reform in the Soviet Union", he said, but meanwhile we should test Moscow's intentions, he added. The U.S. is interested in cooperation and negotiations to have progress wherever possible and it wants to see new thinking to be applied not only in word but also in deed, he said.

Touching upon budget problems, Baker said that 14,600 million dollars were requested for bilateral and multilateral aid programs, of which 5,300 million dollars are to be earmarked to Israel and Egypt. 1,800 million dollars are planned to be allocated to Portugal, Greece, Turkey and the Philippines, the countries which have American bases on their territories. 1,100 million dollars are to go to Pakistan, Thailand, Kenya, Somalia, Tunisia, Jordan, Oman and Morocco. 150 million dollars are designed as military and economic aid to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. A total of 4,600 million dollars are requested for the Department of State, USIA, the Board for International Broadcasting and a number of other governmental agencies. Donations to the United Nations and other international organisations are also planned to be paid out of that sum.

Baker Meetings in Luxembourg Noted

LD1702091789 Moscow TASS in English 2239 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Luxembourg February 17 TASS—By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov:

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker paid a short visit to Luxembourg on Thursday. He was received by Grand Duke of Luxembourg Jean, met and talked with Jacques Santer, prime minister, and Jacques Poos, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

There has been no word about the content of the talks. News analysts believe, however, that Baker was interested in the Luxembourg Government's point of view on problems faced by the North Atlantic alliance, specifically the development of relations with the Warsaw Treaty countries and arms control issues.

The U.S. state secretary makes his first tour of the capitals of Washington's NATO allies. It is expected that the conclusion which he draws after meetings with their leaders will be taken into account by the George Bush administration in elaborating its foreign policy.

Tower Approval Process, Opposition Reviewed

LD2102163589 Moscow TASS in English 1154 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Washington February 21 TASS—The White House on Monday sent FBI's final report on Defence Secretary-designate John Tower to the Senate Armed Services Committee. The report deals with the latest accusations levelled at Tower.

Marlin Fitzwater, White House press secretary, said President Bush went over the 140-page report during a meeting with White House counsel Boyden Gray in the Oval Office.

According to the White House spokesman, this very detailed document "shows no reason why Sen. Tower should not be confirmed". "The President urges that Sen Tower be confirmed as soon as possible", the spokesman said.

The CBS television network points out that, according to the President's assistants, George Bush is resolved to stand firm for Tower.

However, Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on the same day that he still felt concern over the accusations against Tower, excessive drinking in particular.

Senator Nunn said he himself did not yet decide whether he would vote for or against Tower's candidature. But he promised that the committee would no longer postpone a confirmation vote and would probably put the question to the vote before the end of the current week.

Confirmation Linked to SDI

LD1902165189 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Feb 89

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] The first month of work by the new Washington administration is coming to an end. Many foreign press organs, including American ones, are trying to do some initial summing-up and draw some conclusions about the future course of George Bush's government. To me it seems that the 3 weeks that have passed so far have not provided any substance for such far-reaching conclusions. The only thing I might bring myself to note is the somewhat surpising fact that the 41st president of the United States, judging by everything, entered the White House without a program of action worked out in any detail whatsoever, either in the field of domestic or that of foreign policy. This is all the more surprising when one considers that during the 8 years George Bush held the office of vice president, he was aware of every problem and consequently has no need to familiarize himself with them anew. In my view, the present situation would have been better justified if Michael Dukakis—a new man in Washington—had become the master of the White House.

During this month, not even the formation of the government has been completed. The key post of defense minister remains vacant. You, comrade viewers, already know from our reports that in the course of the approval of former Senator Tower for that post, doubts emerged among his Senate colleagues. At Tower's feet they are laying charges arising from facts which came to light in the course of his scandalous divorce proceedings 2 years ago. But the strange thing is that none of these facts are new. Nevertheless, up to a certain time Tower's candidacy did not arouse doubts either in the White House or the Senate.

I shall take the liberty of pronouncing my own version, although it might not be incontrovertible. I have noticed that the campaign against the approval of Tower for the office began after he, during hearings in the Senate, spoke against continuing the implementation of the Star Wars program—the notorious SDI—which he declared to be unrealistic. That was the spark that set the forest on fire.

By the way, I would like to remind our viewers that in one of the Studio Nine programs several months ago, there was a forecast that after Reagan's departure from the White House, doubts would arise in Washington about the expediency of implementing SDI. Tower's speech in the Senate confirms this, although as we can see in today's Washington, the supporters of SDI occupy sufficiently strong positions. [video shows Bush talking to journalists; Tower at a hearing]

Northeast Asia

Lukyanov Delegation Attending Hirohito Funeral

Departs, Seen Off by Talyzin

LD2002224589 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by First Vice-President of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Lukyanov left Moscow for Tokyo on Monday to attend the official funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito. At the airport he was seen off by Comrade Talyzin and other officials.

Arrives in Tokyo, Met by Hata

LD2102034089 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0310 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 21 Feb (TASS)—The Soviet delegation headed by Anatoliy Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today arrived in Tokyo to take part in the official funeral ceremony of Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

At Haneda Airport the delegation was met by Tsutomu Hata, Japan's minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and other officials. Among the welcoming party was Nikolay Solovyev, USSR ambassador to Japan.

Meets Japanese Diet Leaders

LD2202050289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0420 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Feb (TASS)—Anatoliy Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium who is in Tokyo to take part in the ceremony of the official funeral of the Emperor of Japan, today had meetings with the chairmen of the lower and upper chambers of the Diet—Kenzaburo Hara and Yoshihiko Tsuchiya.

In the course of the exchange of opinions on questions of bilateral relations, the Soviet side stressed the important role that links and contacts between deputies of the supreme legislative organs of the two countries, which represent the will and interests of the peoples of the USSR and Japan, play in deepening political dialogue. In the Soviet Union it is considered necessary to search for new forms of interparliamentary links, including between commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Japanese Diet. The Japanese side in turn spoke in favor of the activization of the bilateral dialogue and of raising it to a higher level.

Japan Said To Violate Cocom on Exports to USSR

LD2002113689 Moscow TASS in English 1058 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo February 20 TASS—Police of the Japanese city of Osaka today arrested two executives of the Daikin Kogyo Company on suspicion of violating discriminatory restrictions on trade with socialist countries.

The arrest followed a series of searches at the company's headquarters and branches in December last year and in February this year. An inquiry into the company's activities was undertaken on the insistence of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The two arrested executives of Daikin Kogyo are being accused of organizing the delivery of a particularly pure chemical compound to the USSR in 1986-1988 in breach of the regulations of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Control (Cocom). According to the authorities, the compound may ostensibly be used as a coolant in missile and aircraft guidance systems.

The KYODO TSUSHIN news agency points out that about ten years ago, with Cocom's special permission, Daikin Kogyo delivered this compound to the Soviet Union. The compound, according to the company's spokesman, was intended for use in fire conditioners of Soviet fishing boats. However, later on, the Cocom export ban was reinstated within the scope of measures of economic pressure on the part of the United States and its allies which presented the move as a response to the introduction of Soviet troops to Afghanistan.

Reporting the present "incident," which took place several days prior to the arrival of U.S. President George Bush in Japan, local mass media recall the Toshiba Corp. case when its subsidiary, the Toshiba Kikai was subjected, at Washington's bidding, to "exemplary punishment" for the sale of several sophisticated computerised milling machines to the Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1980s.

According to the Pentagon's original version, the milling machines ostensibly enabled the Soviet Union to produce "noiseless" propellers for nuclear-powered submarines and that their delivery thereby "undermined the security of the West."

Subsequently, however, after Washington under this pretext compelled the Japanese Government to allocate budget funds for the construction of a special anti-submarine centre, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Defence had to admit that the Toshiba Kikai Machines had no bearing whatsoever on abating the noise of the propellers of Soviet submarines.

Near East & South Asia

Shevardnadze Meets Egypt's Sidqi; Ties Normal

PM2202155989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 February 1989 Second Edition p 4

["Talks Held"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (TASS)—Within the framework of the continuing official visit to Egypt by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, a conversation with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi took place. It was devoted, on the whole, to an in-depth analysis of the state, problems of, and prospects for, bilateral Soviet-Egyptian relations in light of their complete normalization, which was stated the other day at a meeting between E.A. Shevardnadze and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

E.A. Shevardnadze spoke about the restructuring being carried out in the USSR and highlighted those of its aspects which open new opportunities for Soviet-Egyptian coperation and make it possible to look for as yet untapped forms and methods and put them into practice. A. Sidqi noted that the policy of restructuring, which shows that the country is entering a dynamic period, evokes great interest in Egypt and is perceived by Egyptians with obvious liking.

A. Sidqi stressed that the presence of the foundation laid in the earlier years of close Soviet-Egyptian cooperation is extremely important in the new stage for the development of Soviet-Egyptian ties in various spheres. He expressed sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union for everything it had done in its time for the development of the Egyptian economy.

In the course of conversation, concrete questions of Soviet-Egyptian cooperation in the trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural, and other areas were examined in detail. The sides expressed confidence that a good impulse to further development will be given by the first session of a joint Soviet-Egyptian intergovernmental commission, which will take place in Cairo soon. The conversation was held in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere.

E.A. Shevardnadze held talks with 'Ismaṭ 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and Egyptian foreign minister. The ministers expressed deep satisfaction with the full normalization of Soviet-Egyptian relations, which, with good reason, can be seen as part of the major political events of recent times. This was made possible thanks to the great work done by both sides and a solid dialogue, the new quality of which was determined by the practice of exchanging personal messages between M.S. Gorbachev and H. Mubarak.

Soviet-Egyptian cooperation, which has recoverd firm stability, is becoming very varied: The formation of the structure of political cooperation in global and regional matters is supplemented by the progressive development of trade and economic, scientific, and cultural ties.

When discussing international problems the ministers paid most attention to the situation in the Near East. 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the USSR is called upon to assume its share of the responsibility for speeding the convening of a conference, which has become an international imperative. He expressed the conviction that the USSR, which invariably supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, will spare no efforts in developing the peace process in the region. E.A. Shevardnadze, noting the important place the Near East occupies in Soviet foreign policy, said that this region can and must be a sphere of interaction only for the peoples who live here. As far as the world community or individual members of it are concerned, it is their duty to selflessly assist the Near East in this.

The ministers compared in detail each side's position regarding the procedure and mechanism for the preparation and functioning of an international conference on the Near East, revealing a considerable degree of identity of views. It was agreed to continue consultations on this matter.

The ministers noted the acute nature of the problem of military confrontation and the arms race in the region. Reacting with approval to the idea put forward at one time by Egypt for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Near East, E.A. Shevardnadze spoke out in favor of an active study of all possible approaches, including those taking into account the practice of the disarmament process in other regions of the world, in order to relieve a situation which is fraught with the most serious consequences for universal peace.

A high appraisal was given to the content of the meetings and conversations that took place during the course of E.A. Shevardnadze's visit to Cairo.

Shevardnadze Meets Israel's Arens in Cairo

LD2202082389 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, on a tour of the Middle East and southwest Asia, met in Cairo with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens, today. [passage omitted on Shevardnadze meetings with Egyptian leaders]

Shevardnadze's Middle Eastern Tour Viewed

LD1702121189 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—by Tass diplomatic correspondent Vadim Biryukov:

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze sets out on an eleven-day tour of the Middle East today. He will visit Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Iran. This will be the first tour of the Middle East by such a high-level Soviet representative in the past 15 years, and in general the first visit by the USSR foreign ministers to Iran, Iraq, and Jordan.

"We believe that an auspicious moment has come to intensify efforts to create conditions for the holding of a Middle East peace conference", a high-ranking spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said on the eve of the visit. "It would be unpardonable to pass it up".

The situation in the Near and Middle East gives rise to concern first of all due to high concentration of armaments and the armed forces in the region. In the past five years 93,000 million dollars worth of weapons was delivered to the countries of the region or approximately 61 percent of the world's expenditures of armaments within the period.

The strength of the armed forces in the Near and Middle East (including Israel and North African countries) is 4.5 million. Five thousand tanks are concentrated in the region. There have emerged chemical and bacteriological weapons, and recently some countries have acquired medium-range missiles. Israel, in particular, is known to have tested Jericho-2 missile, which is capable of reaching the Soviet Union's borders.

The principles for the vision of the world set out in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's UN address on December 7, 1988 are applicable, of course, to both the Near and Middle East. The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that our country, connected with the region both geographically, historically and politically, can and must contribute to a settlement of protracted and extremely painful conflicts.

Together with the peoples of the region, the Soviet Union would like to estimate from the positions of the new political thinking, which has already helped start a nuclear missile disarmament process in the world, the situation in the Near and Middle East and on the basis of new approaches to study possibilities for the convocation of a Middle East peace conference.

The conference, it is believed in the Soviet Union, may become a unique form in a quest for constructive solutions with due regard for the balance of interests of all the countries of the region.

Shevardnadze Visits Egypt, Jordan, Syria

For reports on the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, see the 21 February issue of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT.

Afghan Law on Supreme Defense Council Outlined

LD2002141688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1330 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, 20 Feb (TASS)—The Law on the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland has been published here. The council, the document notes, is being set up as the supreme military and political organ, with the aim of implementing central leadership in conditions of the state of emergency to effectively defend national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and to ensure peace and security in the country. It functions under the leadership of the president of the Republic of Afghanistan. The tasks of this council include, in particular, strengthening state power, enhancing the level of defense capability and combat readiness of the armed forces, ensuring coordination of the operations of the armed detachments of political parties and social organizations, and examining, where necessary, important matters of economic, social, and political life, which are acquiring particular importance in the conditions of the state of emergency. The Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland will also carry out measures to put into practice the policy of national reconciliation, the return of refugees, and the provision of necessary assistance to them.

Decisions of the council are obligatory for all state organs, political parties, social organizations, and individual citizens. Where necessary, the council examines amendments and additions to the country's existing legislation, and presents relevant proposals for examination by the president.

It is envisaged that the council will be dissolved with the cancellation of the state of emergency. [passage omitted]

Members of Defense Council Named; Sharq Resigns

PM2102163589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[Review prepared by Yevg. Bay: "Afghanistan: Consolidating the Republic's Defense"]

[Text] A Law on the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Motherland has been published in Kabul. The council, as the document notes, is being created as the supreme military-political organ for the purpose of exercising central leadership in the emergency conditions in order to defend the country's national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and to ensure peace and security within the country. The council will function under the leadership of the president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR published a decree by the president of the Republic of Afghanistan announcing the composition of the Supreme Council headed by him. A.R. Hatif, vice president of the republic, and S.A Keshtmand, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, are deputy chairmen of the council. The

council also includes Vice President M. Rafi'; the ministers of defense, foreign affairs, and state security; the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; and a number of PDPA leadership members, statesmen, and military figures.

Of the total 26 council members, 21 are members of the PDPA, AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] emphasizes.

AFP also reports, citing a high-ranking government spokesman, the resignation of Prime Minister M.H. Sharq. News agencies point out that the resignation was due to the introduction of the emergency and the concentration of power in the hands of the defense council.

M. Hasan Sharq is one of the country's well-known politicians and has led a complex life. He is 63 and belongs to no party. In the past he was an active supporter of General M. Daoud, who overthrew King Zahir Shah in 1973. He was arrested by the Afghan authorities in 1978 and released in 1980. Over the next 7 years he was Afghanistan's ambassador to India. He returned home in 1987 and took the post of chairman of the State Committee for Returnees' Affairs. Prime minister since 1988, M.H. Sharq—as the news agencies point out—was perceived as one politician in the country capable of launching effective talks with the opposition on the creation of a coalition government.

Commenting on the measures taken by the Afghan authorities, Britain's DAILY TELEGRAPH writes: "President Najibullah dismissed four ministers from the government, put himself at the head of the defense council for coordination of military operations in the country, and introduced an emergency primarily in order to relieve the stress situation in the government, among the military, and within the ruling party."

At a time when an emergency is being introduced in Afghanistan, the same newspaper points out, "differences between moderate and radical opposition groupings have reached the stage where the shura—the consultative council convened in Pakistan to create an 'interim government'—approaches total collapse."

On 21 February the shura, which continues in Rawalpindi, was due to confirm candidates for the remaining 13 positions in the "interim government." According to the newspaper THE PAKISTAN TIMES, the three most important ministerial posts—foreign affairs, defense, and internal affairs—will be given to representatives of fundamentalist groupings from the "Seven."

Judging by everything, these appointments will bring about a new explosion of dissatisfaction among the field commanders who are bearing the brunt of combat actions inside Afghanistan itself. According to a report in the Karachi newspaper JANG, a message from field commanders operating in 30 Afghan provinces, announcing their nonrecognition of the Rawalpindi shura, has been circulated in Islamabad. A. Shah Mas'ud, one of the armed opposition's most influential commanders, has spoken out against new "Premier" Ahmad Shah.

Analyzing the contradictions within the Afghan opposition, Britain's THE GUARDIAN notes that, "in the opinion of monarchists and other moderates in the shura, Pakistan's secret service is trying to impose on them Ahmad Shah's candidacy as prime minister, even though he represents an obvious minority of mujahidin with extremist leanings."

Even since Ziaul Haq's mysterious death, THE GUARDIAN points out, "the intelligence service has determined Pakistani policy toward Afghanistan. While Benazir Bhutto and her Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan are now restricted in their actions by a rigid diplomatic framework, Pakistan's intelligence service is virtually openly encouraging the mujahidin to capture Kabul."

A TASS correspondent reports from Kabul: Over the last 24 hours Afghan security organs conducted a series of operations to neutralize armed gangs in some of the Afghan capital's districts. The operations resulted in the arrest of 39 persons belonging to secret opposition organizations and the capture of several weapons stores.

Kabul Residents' React to Emergency Decree

LD2102003389 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 20 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Yesterday a state of emergency was introduced in Kabul. Kabul residents have long since gotten used to military equipment and arms because the Afghan capital has been practically a frontline town now for a number of years. But these tanks and APC's appeared on city streets and squares and at state and public buildings yesterday after the law on the state of emergency had come into force. [video shows military patrols and tanks on the streets].

In his address to the compatriots, Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, said the measures are of a temporary nature and had to be adopted in connection with the expansion of overt and covert interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and also for defending the achievements of the policy of national reconciliation and enforcing order in the country. Therefore, today, compliance with the provisions of the law on the state of emergency and a law on the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland, whose plenary powers include monitoring state power, has become the main duty of all Afghan citizens.

All enterprises, educational establishments, shops and stores are operating in Kabul. True, the faces of some Kabul residents betray serious concern and worry. Tired of shellings and shortages of the most vital items, they

are not sure these measures would be able to restore normal life. But this group of tradesmen think that the imposition of the state of emergency is a very timely and necessary measure: [video shows correspondent talking to two tradesmen on the street] We (?in Kabul) are very tired of the situation where extremists are constantly robbing us of our goods on the highways, this man says. It is time to take tough measures for establishing order both on the roads and in the country, in general.

As for me, the other tradesman says, I have always thought that another language is required for talking to those trying to continue the senseless bloodshed and war. But for those who understand the language of peace, the doors that lead to talks were opened earlier and they are still open.

Najibullah Issues Decree on Executive Committee
LD2102173489 Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul February 21 TASS—Afghan President Najibullah in a decree circulated by BAKHTAR news agency today announced the establishment of an Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers.

The new body comprises the prime minister and the ministers of finance, trade, and transport.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, deputy chairman of the Supreme Defence Council, was assigned to chair sessions of the Executive Committee and exercise control over the affairs of the Council of Ministers and its Executive Committee.

Najibullah 19 Feb TV Address Reported
PM2102110889 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Najibullah Speech"]

[Text] Kabul, 20 Feb—Afghan President Najibullah spoke on national television yesterday. These days, he said to his compatriots, you are witnessing great events that are the consequence of the policy of national reconciliation. One of them is the total completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. This was possible as a result of long-term efforts by the Afghan Government, and also the Geneva agreements. There is now not a single Soviet soldier remaining on Afghan soil, the president stressed. In the course of the bloody war the Afghan people suffered very great human and material losses and enormous damage was done to the national economy. Millions of our compatriots are living in refugee camps or have been left homeless. In these conditions the policy of national reconciliation was the sole instrument for ensuring peace for our country's present and future generations. The Afghan Government and the PDPA had the courage to acknowledge their mistakes. Far from concealing our mistakes, we set about rectifying them. We intend to continue to resolutely refrain from a policy of extremism, which is contrary to national interests and social values. Unfortunately, even now there are forces that, far from admitting their mistakes, stubbornly continue to kill Muslims and sow the seeds of enmity among the people.

Najibullah dwelt on the results of 2 years of operation of the national reconciliation policy. In that time, he pointed out, the Afghan leadership has announced a cease-fire, freed thousands of imprisoned opposition supporters, restored the refugees' personal property and real estate, adopted a Constitution, published a new law on land and water relations, held elections to the National Council, formed a coalition government on a broad political basis, adopted a law on political parties, and, finally, signed the Geneva accords, which ensured the total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

However, formations of the irreconcilable opposition, Najibullah went on, not only refused to cease fire, but began to attack Armed Forces subunits, continued to subject residential districts of cities to rocket shelling, and also unleashed combat operations against opposition groups observing the cease-fire. In the last 2 years the rebels fired more than 300,000 rockets and shells, as a result of which more than 11,000 civilians died. Rejecting talks, groupings of the irreconcilable opposition, contrary to the norms of international law, killed parliamentarians—deputies to the peace jirga. Not only did they refuse to take part in the elections, they physically annihilated the people's elected representatives, including those supported by the opposition.

The government of Afghanistan, wishing to promote the refugees' return home, created demilitarized zones in regions bordering Pakistan, but the extremists seized them by armed force, seeking to pass this off as a "victory," and now they have turned these zones into seats of dispute and internecine strife. In the provinces of Konarha and Bamian, which they seized, they failed to create their own administrative organs. If the opposition is sure that the people support it, why does it not want an end to the war? Let the Afghans vote for it in conditions of peace. The rebels are condemning children, women, and old people to starvation by not allowing the government to implement in full measures to supply food to the population. At the same time, they are misappropriating essential goods and creating caches and dumps so they can subsequently speculate in these goods or send them secretly to Pakistan to sell.

It is clear from all this who bears the main responsibility for the devastation and the continuation of the war. The people will hold them responsible.

Now let us ask those who shouted louder than everyone that the Soviet troops were the cause of war: Why has the war, instead of declining, flared up? The Soviet troops have been withdrawn from our country, and now we want to defend our motherland by our own efforts, as our

fathers did. But those who have Pakistan's patronage live outside the motherland and send in lethal weapons every day, which are used against the long-suffering Afghan people.

At first, the president went on, the opposition was not prepared for talks and rejected in principle the possibility of holding talks with any side. Then it decided to enter into talks with the Soviet Union and proclaimed this to be a political victory on its part. After the start of the talks the other side stated that through such contacts the USSR was pursuing the goal of sowing discord in its ranks. This stance testifies to the lack of unity in the opposition's ranks, to the lack of any considered program. It is quite clear that the rejection of talks with the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan testifies to reluctance to resolve the Afghan problem by political methods.

The opposition leaders are the obedient tool of the Pakistani military and their foreign patrons. Our people recently learned of a statement by the Pakistani president in which he asserted that Afghanistan's place is on the political map of Pakistan. At a time when the Soviet troops have left Afghanistan, Pakistani units are moving toward Nangarhar and Qandahar. While the Soviet contingent was in Afghanistan, the Pakistani authorities claimed that it was the main threat to them, but at that time there was somehow no sign of any Pakistani troops along our borders. After the signing of the Geneva agreements, Pakistan's position on the Afghan settlement hardened. We are faced with an expansion of direct and covert interference in our country's internal affairs. A threat has been created to Afghanistan's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, to its very independence.

Under these conditions, Najibullah stated, the situation dictates the need to impose a state of emergency with a view to protecting the achievements of the policy of national reconciliation and ensuring order in the country in accordance with Article 143 of the fundamental law. The imposition of a state of emergency is not a departure from the policy of national reconciliation. This course is strengthening, and favorable prerequisites are being created for its implementation. We did not want to take this step, but the opposition and its patrons, interfering grossly in Afghanistan's internal affairs, flouted generally recognized international legal norms and the provisions of the Geneva agreements. We are supporters of national reconciliation and democracy, but no one should have any doubt that it is necessary to end bloodshed and aggression from outside. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure the motherland's security for the sake of the protection of the people's interests, as well as democracy.

The president appealed to his compatriots, in particular the clergy, servicemen, the public, private businessmen and merchants, members of the PDPA and its political allies, young people, and all the country's patriotic forces to close ranks in the face of the common danger and make every effort to save the motherland. Najibullah proposed to the commanders of armed opposition groups that they return to peaceful labor, abandon those who call for the continuation of the war, and refuse to allow themselves to be used for the sake of someone's self-seeking interests. The state, he pointed out, is ready to grant to those who do this every opportunity in the spheres of trade, finance, agriculture, and transport. Appealing to Afghans living abroad, Najibullah stressed that there is now no obstacle to their return home, and he called upon them not to allow their sons to continue to die in fratricidal war. He noted the historical ties and ties of blood between the Pushtuns and Baluchis of the border regions and the population of Afghanistan, and called on them not to allow extremists to use the tribal settlement zones for aggression against their brothers and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Najibullah pointed out that Afghanistan and its people are on the threshold of severe trials, and expressed confidence that all the difficulties will be overcome. After imposition of the state of emergency, he stated, all state organs should act in the spirit of strengthening the rule of law and ensuring order and discipline, which accords with the demands of the present moment. Compliance with the provisions of the law on the state of emergency, the law on the Supreme Council for Defense of the Motherland, and all existing laws and provisions, in particular the provisions of the Constitution, is the duty of all citizens of our country.

As president of the republic, Najibullah went on, I declare to all my compatriots that the PDPA, its political allies, and the government of Afghanistan will promote dialogue with the opposition within the framework of the national reconciliation policy. We are prepared, simultaneously with the execution of our duties in the armed defense of the motherland and people, to soberly conduct dialogue with every citizen, any group, and any association either inside or outside the country. People with common sense will realize that even in a situation where we have mighty armed forces, we are pursuing a course of national reconciliation, regarding this as the sole opportunity to ensure peace and tranquility on Afghan soil. These difficult days could be a good test for those commanders of armed formations operating within Afghanistan who accept our appeal and no longer wish to be the instrument of continuing war and bloodshed and line their pockets at the expense of their compatriots' sufferings. All citizens of Afghanistan, and in particular the refugees, should know that all these measures are being adopted with a single aim—that of ensuring a peaceful life for the people and the conditions for those compatriots who left the motherland to return to their homes.

Najibullah Views Regime's Military Capabilities

LD1902133889 Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi February 19 TASS—The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has announced a policy of peace and national reconciliation

which fully meets with the needs, the will and the aspirations of the Afghan people, Afghanistan's president Najibullah said in an interview with the Indian newspaper SUNDAY OBSERVER [name, country of newspaper as received].

"On the other hand, our military forces have a very high morale and combat experience in arduous conditions," the newspaper quoted the president as saying.

"Because of all this, we can and will surely and certainly defend the sovereignty, independence and integrity of our nation."

Asked about his reaction to the news of the disbanding by Afghan opposition forces of a Consultative Council (shura) in Pakistan, the Afghan leader said that "any kind of gathering under any name and agenda is meaningless, as long as all the internal and external forces related to the problem are not involved in the exercise".

"It simply will not evoke confidence among the Afghan people," Najibullah added.

He said Shura participants have no coherent political platform and guidelines. Therefore, they cannot settle the current political problems facing the country nor can they maintain peace.

On statements about Pakistan's plans to set up a Pakistan-Afghanistan confederation, Najibullah said that it is not only the government and the PDPA who have condemned such irresponsible statements. All patriotic Afghans have denounced it.

Najibullah also pointed to "totally uncalled-for preparations" of Pakistan's Armed Forces near the Afghan border, which he described as a "very clear and direct military interference against the Republic of Afghanistan".

Asked about problems of settlement in the country, the President said that the PDPA's choice is peace and the policy of national reconciliation.

But, he noted, "if war is imposed on us, the PDPA and its political and coalition allies and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan are fully capable of defending ourselves".

"We are one hundred percent confident of that," Najibullah said.

The Afghan leader also said the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement can play a significant role in efforts to achieve settlement in the country. He welcomed India's policy toward Afghanistan.

Najibullah Message to Iranian, Turkish Presidents
LD1802105789 Moscow TASS in English 0952 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul February 18 TASS—President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent messages to the Iranian and Turkish presidents.

The message sent to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran emphasized the determination of the Afghan Government to do all that depends on it for restoring peace and security in the country and ensuring a happy future for the Afghan people who have lived through the hardships of the ten-year-long war. With this in view, the message continued, the Afghan leadership is pursuing the national reconciliation policy whose main accomplishments include the amnesty granted to political prisoners, the return of real estate and movable property to refugees, the approval by Loya Jirgah of a new constitution and the creation of a multi-party system. At present there are two main forces in Afghanistan which are opposing each other. One of them wishes to stop fratricide immediately and the other continues the extermination of Moslems by Moslems. We propose to spare no efforts for stopping the war in Afghanistan and urge the opposition forces to reach agreement on the ceasefire and to form a coalition government on a broad basis.

The message sent to President Kenan Evren of Turkey states that the wihdrawal of Soviet troops from the country has been completed in full conformity with the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. This is evidence of the sincerity of the intentions of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, which are willing to promote in every way a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan conflict. However, Pakistan and the United States continue to grossly violate the Geneva accords, provoking the continuation of fratricide on Afghan soil. We request the world community and especially Islamic countries to help stop bloodshed and restore the war-ravaged country.

Afghanistan's Wakil on 'Indignation' Over U.S. Aid
LD2102123189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, 21 Feb (TASS)—The Afghan people, who await the restoration of peace and calm in their country with impatience after 10 years of war, have learned with indignation of the intentions of the U.S. Administration to continue providing military and financial aid to the armed formations of the Afghan opposition, Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan said in an interview for BAKHTAR.

Apparently, the incumbent U.S. President wants to follow the policy of his predecessor. Perhaps the United States wants to continue the war in order to impose upon the Afghan people a government obedient to the United States, and representing the interests of a minority, in place of the legitimate government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Historical experience shows, Abdul Wakil

said, that the Afghan people never have and never will recognize a government imposed on them from outside, and even less a "goverment" created in Islamabad under pressure from the Pakistani authorities.

Over the course of many years the United States has used the presence of Soviet trops in the country as an excuse for intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and for delivering arms to the formations of the irreconcilable opposition, continued the Afghan minister. Now, however, when the Soviet troops have returned home, the United States is continuing to deliver arms to those whom it calls "freedom fighters." This contradicts generally accepted international legal norms.

The government and people of Afghanistan resolutely demand an end to U.S. interference in the affairs of the sovereign state, and that Afghans be granted the opportunity to start healing the wounds inflicted on them by war, Abdul Wakil stressed in conclusion.

Afghan Spokesman Decries U.S. Arms to Rebels

LD1802110289 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul February 18 TASS—At present, when the Soviet military contingent has left Afghanistan in conformity with provisions of the Geneva Accords, U.S. President George Bush's statement on the intention to continue military assistance to the Afghan opposition bewildered the peace-minded circles of the world public, an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said in an interview with BAKHTAR.

Conditions have been created already for stopping the internal Afghan conflict as soon as possible, he continued. However, the actions of the U.S. Administration, far from promoting the termination of bloodshed, are provoking its escalation. If the U.S. forgot about its commitments as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, this shows once again that the violation of international agreements signed by the U.S. is a common occurrence for a U.S. Administration.

The call for overthrowing a legitimate government constitutes interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out, commenting on the recent statements of Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, in a BBC interview. The Afghan people will never yield to a political diktat and will not accept a political system imposed on them from the outside, he said.

Afghan Envoy to USSR Urges Political Solution

LD2102233189 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists was held in the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center on the current issues of international politics. Golabzoy, ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union, spoke. This is what he said, among other things.

[Begin recording, Golabzoy in Pashto with voice-over in Russian] On 15 February the last units of the Soviet limited contingent completely withdrew from Afghanistan and in this way the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union fulfilled their obligations under the Geneva accords. But unfortunately—and this is also known to you—the other sides, Pakistan and the United States, not only have not fulfilled their Geneva accords obligations but, on the contrary, have (?accelerated their interference) and the supply of weapons into Afghanistan via Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan began to (?form) units of its regular army near the Afghanistan border after the opposition accelerated attacks on the convoys carrying food and after the commencement of sabotage within the country.

In keeping with the constitution [word indistinct] and in keeping with Article 143 of the Afghan Constitution, on 18 February a presidential decree was issued on the beginning of the state of emergency in Afghanistan. We consider this the sole correct path.

The announcement of the state of emergency in Afghanistan by no means signifies that we have departed from the policy or the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. We consider, as we did before, that the path to peace in Afghanistan—the only path to stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan—represents the continuation of the policy of reconciliation, dialogue, and a political solution to the Afghan question. This is not only the idea of the PDPA—the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan—but is also an idea of all political allies of the PDPA, of all progressive patriotic forces in Afghanistan, of the Afghan clergy, and of the people tired of bloodshed and war.

The announcement of the state of emergency in Afghanistan has one and only one objective: to preserve an independent, neutral, and nonaligned Afghanistan, and its sole aim is to establish peace in Afghanistan. [end recording]

Pakistan, Western Circles Obstruct Afghan Peace

LD2102152289 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—by TASS political analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

It has become axiomatic in our days that the policies of these or other states and governments should be judged not by the words of their leaders, but by actual deeds above all. Speaking in the country's parliament, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Yaqub Khan has alleged that Islamabad made no preparations for attacking Afghanistan. In the meantime, the president of Pakistan has openly declared that plans to set up a so-called Pakistan-Afghan confederation, that is to swallow up the neighbouring sovereign nation, have not been shelved.

An unprecedented concentration of Pakistani Armed Forces is under way in areas adjoining Afghanistan. If this is not preparation for aggression, what is the reason for such militaristic action?

Indicative also is the "general background", against which the enemies of Afghanistan are hatching their plans to "liquidate" that sovereign state. At the time when the Soviet Union had displayed firm adherence to the Geneva accords by withdrawing its troops from the country, Pakistan and the United States continue to trample under foot the letter and spirit of the "Geneva package". Attempts are being continued to knock together some sort of a "transition government" outside Afghanistan, behind the backs of the Afghan people. American-made arms continue to be sent in an endless flow to the armed opposition, and Washington has declared outright that military deliveries to the "irreconcilables" would be continued. The extremists not only continue to fire missiles at peaceful Afghan towns and villages, but are endeavouring to strangle them by an economic blockade. The cause of settling the Afghan conflict has run up against serious obstacles and is living through a troublesome period.

In the prevailing situation, the Afghan leadership was compelled to announce an emergency situation in the country. It definitely goes to show that the situation in Afghanistan is grave, indeed. This is precisely how it is now qualified by foreign, including Western, mass media too. Yes, the situation is grave. Those opposed to a settlement are striving to endanger the republic's territorial integrity, its very existence. Despite this, however, not only this should be taken into account in assessing the actual state of affairs. It is important that even in the current period of severe ordeals, Kabul is reaffirming over and over again its adherence to the line of national reconciliation, regarding this course as the only possibility for ensuring peace and tranquility on the land of Afghanistan. This is proof of the republic's strength, of its confidence that Afghanistan's affairs can and should be resolved by the Afghans themselves and by no one else.

Today, as always, Kabul is prepared for a constructive dialogue with any group, with any alignment both within the country or outside its bounds. The circles in Pakistan and in the West that are striving to turn Afghanistan into a seat of new bloody strife by arming the extremists and prodding them on to ever-new acts of violence, are assuming a very grave responsibility, indeed. The "irreconcilables" and their patrons will not be able to usurp power by force. This is becoming ever more obvious now. But if outside interference in Afghan affairs is not stopped, the bloodshed will continue. Who will stand to gain from it? In any case, not the cause of peace and tranquility in Asia.

World Community Urged To Aid Afghan Settlement

LD2002172389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 Feb 89 First Edition p 5

[Veniamin Shurygin "Viewpoint": "Lack of Realism"]

[Text] The completion of our troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Soviet and Afghan leaderships' fidelity to the fulfillment of the Geneva accords, and the USSR Government's statement on its readiness to continue promoting the restoration of peace on Afghan soil and the stabilization of the situation in the region as a whole have aroused a broad international response and are finding support throughout the world. The complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops has increased the opportunities for achieving an internal settlement in Afghanistan, an EEC foreign ministers' statement says, for example. The ministers urge all interested parties to work on the basis of restraint and realism. India has advocated a peaceful solution to the Afghan crisis and the maintenance of the nonaligned status of and democracy in Afghanistan. Similar statements are also being made by the governments and public in many other countries.

There are comments of a different kind, too, of course. Their authors are trying, as it were, to make propaganda mileage out of the Afghan tragedy. They are talking about a "bloody and uncertain future for Afghanistan" and are calling for the overthrow of the Afghan Government. Weeping with crocodile tears over the "Afghan people's sufferings," they are seeking to divert attention from the fact that the source of those sufferings was first and foremost the undeclared war waged by the United States, its NATO allies, and Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The protectors and inspirers of the Afghan opposition are trying every method they know to stress their nonacceptance of the Kabul government and are arrogating the right to judge its "illegitimacy." They completely ignore the fact that this government is officially recognized by over 80 states and represents its country in the Nonaligned Movement, and that none of the over 100 members of that movement has questioned the legitimacy of its representation there. Finally, the Government of Afghanistan is a fully empowered party to the Geneva talks. The signature of its representative stands alongside those of the representatives of the United States, Pakistan, and the USSR on the documents adopted there. Incidentally, a unanimously approved resolution of the 43d UN General Assembly Session urges all members of the world community to promote inter-Afghan dialogue, that is, talks between the Republic of Afghanistan Government and the opposition.

The West stubbornly reiterates that the PDPA and the coalition government formed on its initiative have no support among the Afghan people and are upheld solely by the Soviet troops' presence. Well, there is a simple method of showing now just who really represents the

Afghan people—the ruling coalition or the opposition. That method is the path of national reconciliation proposed by the Republic of Afghanistan Government. It ensures the free expression of the Afghans' will on the question of how their country should continue to develop and who should lead them. After all, the PDPA has already renounced a monopoly on power, and the national Constitution ensures the existence of a multiparty system and all forms of ownership. Furthermore, the Afghan leadership is proposing that an international conference on Afghanistan be convened to discuss questions of safeguarding the country's neutrality and its demilitarization.

Nevertheless, many figures in the West, primarily in the United States but also in Pakistan and Iran, are banking fully on the military seizure of power in Kabul by the mujahidin. Such a lack of realism can only prolong the bloodshed. Peace and stability in Afghanistan can be restored only with the participation of all the main conflicting forces.

The opposition rejects a political settlement of the conflict. It does not have a general constructive program or any intelligible notion of the country's further political and socioeconomic development. Its leaders see Afghanistan's future in different ways. The fundamentalists want to turn it into an absolutely centralized theocratic state, whereas the moderate forces advocate a return to the past when real power belonged to the local tribal aristocracy.

In 10 years of war much enmity has accumulated in Afghan society. The motives for the behavior of many leaders of the opposing groups are now dictated by a sense of revenge, personal ambition, sympathies and antipathies, and clan solidarity. The world community must help the Afghan people create all the necessary external conditions so the Afghans themselves can agree on their country's peaceful future. I believe that thinking in terms of the victory or defeat of the various conflicting sides now, as the West is doing, is merely pouring oil onto the flames of the continuing bloodshed.

A great tragedy has befallen the present generation of Afghans. Today it is very important to end the bloodshed and restore peace and calm to Afghan soil. And that is best done by the joint efforts of the entire world community, as now happens in times of natural disasters.

Kabul Blockade Reportedly 'Unsuccessful'

PM2102135589 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 89 p3

[A. Svistunov telephone report from Kabul under the rubric "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA On the Line": "Kabul"; first paragraph is unattributed introduction]

[Text] Yesterday we succeeded in telephoning Soviet correspondents in the capital of the Republic of Afghanistan. We asked our colleagues to comment on the situation in the city and the country as a whole:

[Svistunov] At the moment you can say that the situation in the city is all right. The introduction of a state of emergency on 19 February has borne fruit—outwardly everything is calm. A curfew is in effect and there are military patrols at every intersection.

In two areas of the city security bodies have confiscated seven submachineguns, pistols of foreign origin, and TNT charges. Two trucks carrying ammunition for the rebels have been detained. On Sunday, a very powerful explosive device was defused in a densely populated area of the city. One explosion, it is true, was not prevented—in the region of a substation near Kabul which feeds the capital with electricity. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But what is happening in the Kabul region? Is the city not threatened with a blockade?

[Svistunov] In areas adjacent to the capital, units from the regular Afghan Army are conducting operations to clear the area of rebels. The opposition is, of course, trying to organize a blockade but has been unsuccessful. In the space of 24 hours as many as 18 trucks carrying food supplies and 89 gasoline tank trucks have been able to get through to us.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How many Soviets are in Kabul at this moment?

[Svistunov] Around 200.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is your opinion of the situation in the country as a whole?

[Svistunov] The armed opposition has homed in on two centers: Kabul and Jalalabad. The former interests them as the state capital and they regard the latter as a kind of strongpoint for proclaiming a provisional government and gathering together all militarized formations.

In Qandahar, units from the Second Army Corps have destroyed a rebel grouping. They have seized recoilless weapons and a large number of rifles. The Afghan Air Force is carrying out bombing and strafing attacks on regions where the enemy is concentrated—namely, the regions of the southern Salang, Nangarhar, and Parvan, and the city of Khowst.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is the opposition receiving military aid from abroad?

[Svistunov] It is well known that weapons are still being transferred from Pakistan to Nangarhar in breach of the Geneva agreements. One convoy was destroyed 19 February.

Rebel Arms Cache Found in Kabul; 39 Arrested
LD2102204289 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 21 feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by Moscow Television correspondent A. Shkirando in Kabul, with recorded remarks by Afghan Major General A.M. Paykar in vernacular with voice-over Russian translation; Shkirando and Paykar identified by screen captions]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours Afghan security agencies have conducted a number of operations to render harmless armed gangs in several parts of Kabul. During the operations 39 people were arrested. They were members of secret opposition organizations; several arms caches were seized. Our correspondent reports from the Afghan capital:

[Shkirando] This arms cache was discovered and rendered harmless yesterday by the Afghan State Security Forces. It was not found somewhere in the mountains or in a cave, but in one of the densely populated areas of the Afghan capital. [video shows arms cache] Next door to the house is (?one of the people who reported it]. His name is Shakh Makhmud. Out of fear for my life, he said, I was frightened to tell the competent organs that in my neighbor's yard [words indistinct] there were some weapons and ammunition supplied by extremists from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. [video shows Shkirando interviewing Makhmud]

Yes, this cache was rendered harmless, and thanks to this there will be fewer dead and wounded among the Afghans. The cache discovered yesterday is not the only one. [video shows more arms caches].

[Paykar] Using weapons supplied by a number of Western countries, the United States, and Pakistan, which play a particularly prominent role here, the extremists have increased their attempts to carry out acts of terrorism against the civilian population and public employees. Recently one of these terrorist groups from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, which is headed by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, was captured in Kabul. The members admitted that they received special training and were acting under the leadership of Pakistani advisers. Thanks to the efficient actions of our colleagues, Kabul continues to live a normal life. [video shows interview with Maj Gen A.M. Paykar interspersed with more shots of the arms cache, including a close-up of a circuit tester manufactured by Nitro Nobel]

200 Embassy Personnel, 6 Newsmen Still in Kabul
LD1902173189 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 19 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] As before, we are anxious about the state of affairs in Afghanistan. Judging by a Kabul television report today, the situation in the capital remains calm, the populace is going about its normal life, while enterprises, offices, the city's trading establishments, and other municipal services are functioning. Incidentally, I should note that the Soviet Embassy is continuing to operate, although with a reduced complement of approximately 200 diplomatic and technical personnel, plus 6 Soviet correspondents.

From today a state of emergency is in force on the territory of Afghanistan, in the streets of the country. Security posts comprising army subunits reinforced by combat vehicles and armored personnel carriers have been established at intersections in squares, and on streets of the Afghan capital.

Yesterday, formations of the irreconcilable opposition subjected the towns of Jalalabad, Herat, Gardeyz, and Ghazni to rocket bombardments, killing one person and wounding five. The Afghan artillery dealt a retaliatory blow at the rebel positions in Parwan Province. [video shows APC and tank patrolling streets; armed security men searching cars]

Moderate Afghan Rebels Nix Interim Government
TA2102164989 Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1500 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] As Monday's Consultative Assembly meeting in Rawalpindi held by the Afghan Government's opponents has shown, differences among mujahidin leaders have in effect paralyzed the work of this assembly.

The meeting ended without results due to the refusal by two so-called moderate groups, namely the Afghan Islamic National Front headed by Gaylani and the Afghan National Salvation Front headed by Mujaddedi, to take part in the so-called provisional government. Thus, the participants in the Consultative Assembly did not succeed in forming this government. It became clear that the activity of the commission, which was formed on Monday and had the task of distributing portfolios among members of the provisional government, was also paralyzed because Gaylani and Mujaddedi did not appoint their organizations' representatives to work on this commission.

A committee comprising 70 people—that is, 10 people for every member of the Seven-Party Alliance—was set up the same day to seek a solution to this problem. The job of this committee is to approve a list of 27 candidates for ministerial posts. This list must be ratified later by the assembly. Apparently, the Eight-Party Alliance in Iran has boycotted the proceedings of the assembly in Rawalpindi. The field commanders of the armed opposition groups have also expressed their opposition to this assembly.

Contacts Said 'Opened' With Opposition, King

LD1802190588 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] President Najibullah has told newsmen in Kabul that peace in Afghanistan could be restored within weeks. He said contacts had been opened with the opposition and government envoys dispatched for talks with the former king, Zahir Shah.

Meanwhile, the consultative meeting, or shura, in the Pakistani town of Rawalpindi has proclaimed Ahmad Shah, who belongs to Islamic fundamentalists, as head of the so-called interim Government of Afghanistan. The opposition is known to have set up a government-in-exile led by him last year, but he was given no recognition even by the rebels' allies in the region.

USSR Wants To 'Forget' 1979 Afghan Invasion

OW1802015289 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today, news media in many countries have promptly reported the news expected by everyone. People in the whole world are once again deeply convinced that, even under the most complicated situation, the Soviet Union will not go back on its word. The Soviet Union has fulfilled its obligation of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet troops, sent to Afghanistan about 10 years ago, have all returned home. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan itself is a vary complicated military action. In particular, the road from Kabul to Soviet territory was congested with columns of people, military equipment, and other supplies. The problem was caused by the blockade tactics adopted by the so-called opposition factions, which refused to reconcile with the Afghan Government. They attempted to create a situation of starvation in Kabul. Accordingly, the Soviet troops there gave flour and other daily necessities to the local people when they started to withdraw from Afghanistan. The Soviet Il-26 transport planes landed in succession at Kabul Airport. The Soviet Union built an air bridge and sent several thousand metric tons of flour and other commodities to Kabul within a very short period. In fact, the blockade was thus broken by Soviet action.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which has been expected by the Soviet people for a long time, is thus complete. Now, following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the Soviet people will no longer worry about the fate of their children, brothers, or husbands. They now want to forget the events occurring 10 years ago, the ominous year of 1979, when Soviet troops were gradually dragged into the war. Indeed, the leaders who made this decision during that time did not consult with the Soviet people. To be fair, under the system of administrative order at that time, the people of our country lacked the initiative to express their views. At that time, people were ideologically unwilling to discuss whether the action was beneficial or not and consider plans to solve this complicated conflict.

It is not an easy thing to give up an old convention, but it is also impossible to continue. In spite of that, a new ideology has gradually been formed. This has created the road leading to the Geneva Agreement. The agreement calls on all sides to strictly observe its stipulations. The Soviet Union voluntarily assumed the obligation of withdrawing its troops before 15 February 1989. We have faithfully observed the agreement and totally fulfilled its obligation; all impartial observers in the world have pointed this out. Newspapers and publications of different political parties in various regions have all reported the Soviet action. However, not all people are happy over the fact, because, at the same time, the foundation for slandering the Soviet Union has disappeared. They can no longer describe the Soviet Union as an occupation force or slander the Soviet action as so-called imperialist aggression.

Naturally, now we should think more about the future and spend less time recalling the point at issue in the past, despite the fact that the issue should be carefully and conscientiously studied. Nevertheless, it appears that the future of Afghanistan may become more complicated than the situation in the past.

Biryukova Concludes India Visit, Talks

Meets With Gandhi

LD1802235589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1507 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Feb (TASS)—Indian Prime Minister R. Gandhi today received A.P. Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is here on a working visit at the invitation of the Indian Government.

Questions on implementation of the understanding reached at summit level on the further expansion and deepening of trade-economic cooperation between the USSR and India were discussed during their conversation. Particular attention was given to the need for a more active transition to new forms of economic cooperation, which envisage the creation of joint enterprises, the development of coproduction, and the arranging of direct ties between Soviet enterprises and state-owned and private firms in India. The conviction was expressed that there are good prospects for such cooperation in the production and mutual delivery of consumer goods.

The conversation was businesslike and took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Departs for Moscow

LD1902063789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0610 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Delhi, 19 Feb (TASS)—A.P. Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who was here on a working visit at the invitation of the Indian Government, today left Delhi for Moscow.

She was seen off at the airport by ministers and other officials. Among the send-off party was V.F. Isakov, USSR ambassador to India.

Arrives in Moscow, Met by Vlasov

LD1902212389 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Biryukova, who has been in India on a working visit, returned from Delhi to Moscow today. She was met at the airport by Comrade Vlasov and other officials. [video shows still photo of Biryukova being met at the airport]

'Power Struggle' in Iran, Army 'Purge' in Iraq

LD2102221689 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Feb 89

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] Since the rumbling of gunfire stopped on the Iran-Iraq front, reports from these states have fairly rarely made the latest news bulletins. Meanwhile, things have not yet come to a final stabilization on the former fighting line. Indeed, in that region as a whole, judging from the scanty information reaching us from there, the situation is fairly complicated.

In the past few weeks reports have reached us from both Iran and Iraq regarding mass executions taking place in those countries and regarding the internal struggles between various groupings.

The Iraqi authorities do not confirm the reports on internal disturbances and executions. As for Iran, after a few weeks during which various officials denied the mass executions, the Iranian monthly magazine SORUCH, [name of publication as heard] whose leaders are close to the ruling elite, confirmed that these executions have taken place. The confirmation of the execution of a group of influential religious figures came also from Information minister Reyshari. The opposition organization Mojahedin-e Khalq issued a statement saying 15,000 supporters of that organization had been sentenced to death, with an unusual method having been used for their execution: They were put to death in so called explosive chambers, premises in which large groups of convicted persons were assembled and then blown up.

According to western press reports, the mass executions of members of opposition movements followed the end of combat operations on the Iran-Iraq front, when anti-government demonstrations were stepped up by various sections of the population that were experiencing considerable material difficulties.

Concerning the information that has filtered through on the execution of high-ranking religious figures, according to reports by the well-informed British magazine THE MIDDLE EAST, high-ranking clergymen close to Ayatollah Montazeri have perished on the gallows. I wish to remind you also that this bearer of the highest religious title in Iran was officially declared the successor to Imam Khomeyni a few years ago. From his residence in the town of Qom, Ayatollah Montazeri has recently been fairly critical of the government's activities. However, as events testify, the successor is opposed by a powerful group of figures. According to the report in the London THE MIDDLE EAST, this group is made up of Prime Minister Musavi, Majlis Chairman Rafsanjani, and Imam Khomeyni's son Ahmad.

In the view of Western specialists, an increasingly exacerbated power struggle is going on for the heritage of Khomeyni, and this struggle is taking place mainly within the clerical elite.

The internecine strife in the clerical elite, news of which, though infrequent, is nevertheless percolating through into the Western press, is a reflection of the difficulties experienced by Iran, which has suffered huge losses in the course of the long and senseless war.

The strange laws of political symmetry have resulted in information regarding similar events, albeit in its own way, also coming from Iraq. In particular, the U.S. and the British press have carried reports in the past few days regarding executions of Iraqi Army officers. They tell of the purge President Husayn is allegedly carrying out within the ranks of the army. A few Western press organs link the repressions in the army with dissensions in the family of President Husayn, who a year ago decided to take a second wife. According to the British DAILY TELEGRAPH, up until now the most responsible posts in the army were held by relatives of his first wife, Sajida, and especially by her brother who holds the post of defense minister. It seems, however, that such an exclusively mundane explanation is of a superficial nature. If the information regarding internal political clashes inside Iraq is confirmed, the roots of these clashes should be sought, of course, not in family dissensions, but in the very same thing that lies at the basis of internal political events in Iran: The political price for the bloody war is very high and its consequences will be felt for a long time to come.

Islamic-Western Controversy Over Rushdie Viewed

Islamic Conference Restraint Noted

NC1802135789 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Aleksandr Volkov commentary from "The World Today" feature]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: The 45-member ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] will not convene an extraordinary session to review "The Satanic Verses," the work of British writer Salman Rushdie. The chief of the ICO's Islamic commission, Hamid al-Qabid, made this announcement. Iran had called for an ICO session, as it and many other Islamic countries consider the book an unwarranted attack on the Islamic religion.

However, this news has not helped mitigate rising sentiments over this book. Our commentator, Aleksandr Volkov, writes in this regard:

It is absolutely correct to say that the topic chosen by Salman Rushdie is a delicate and sensitive one, and that susceptibilities of religious-minded people must be respected. In his book "The Satanic Verses," the lifestyle of a Muslim preacher, who can easily be considered a portrayal of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, is described. This would not have been of so much consequence had the imaginary hero not been depicted as overstepping the limits of popular decency and as being accepted by all, which is the reason for all this hue and cry.

Many Islamic countries have banned Rushdie's romantic work within their borders. In Iran, a day of mourning was declared in protest of the book, the preliminaries to the publication of which are underway in the United States. Thousands of students in Tehran converged on the British Embassy in anti-British protests. Religious fanatics announced a reward of $3 million for anyone who would carry out the decree proclaimed by Ayatollah Khomeyni for Rushdie's execution for the crime of blaspheming the Holy Koran.

Pakistan has officially lodged a protest with Great Britain and the United States against the publication of the book. Great Britain on its part declared that a resort to force against its citizens is unacceptable and in contravention of international norms.

In any case, according to news agencies, groups of professional assassins are on their way to the British Isles to eliminate Rushdie. We are not inclined to comment on who is right and who is to blame in this uproar. We shall ask another question: Is it acceptable to inflame such satanic sentiments in the Islamic East as well as in the West over a controversial romance? The rousing of such feelings, on the one hand, has transformed the "The Satanic Verses" into a bestseller, and, on the other, has resulted in the killing of people in Pakistan during extensive protests.

In my view, the ICO's restraint in this regard is very intersting.

Iranian-Western Ties Damaged

NC2202091589 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Aleksandr Volkov commentary]

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners: The international clamor over British writer Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" continues to mount, and it is gradually assuming the form of a political crisis between the Western and the Islamic Eastern countries, particularly Iran. [passage omitted]

Our commentator Aleksandr Volkov says we should for the moment ignore the massive protests in Iran, Pakistan, and some other Islamic countries, which also took a toll in human life; ignore the incredible (?price) on the head of Salman Rushdie, the 41-year-old Anglo-Indian writer; and also ignore those businessmen who are forced to sell the "The Satanic Verses" romance secretly in order to protect their own lives from danger, and instead analyze the effect that the scandal of Salman Rushdie's book has had on the international as well as the internal situation of countries.

The (?resumption) of Iran-UK relations, which had recently been initiated, has been halted; France has indefinitely postponed the return of its envoy to Tehran; the Dutch foreign minister has postponed his upcoming visit to Tehran; participants in the European Parliament's session in Strasbourg have threatened Iran with possible embargoes; and it is not too far-fetched to imagine that the anti-U.S. protests in Pakistan may culminate in the recall of the U.S. envoy from Islamabad. Sensitivities are being touched on the unofficial level as well. Muslim extremists do not want Rushdie to escape his potential assassins. If he does, a series of terrorist actions will take place in Western countries. London's THE SUN suggests that if something happens to Rushdie, Iran might be bombed. [passage omitted]

Will not this scandal threaten most of the positive experiments that have recently been made in international relations?

Bhutto Enemies Exploit Controversy

PM2202152189 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[O. Vladimirova and R. Gladkikh article: " 'The Satanic Verses': Political Crisis Spreading. Death Threats Against Author and Publishers"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Salman Rushdie wrote the highly imaginary surrealist novel "The Satanic Verses" using the material of Islamic myths and legends. It so happened that what is one man's myth is another man's holy writ. Incidentally, Rushdie is not the first writer to

have his works burned or the first author to be anathematized, be it during the time of the Spanish Inquisition in the 16th century or during the time of Hitler. [passage omitted].

The reaction in Pakistan to the book has assumed a political character. There, amid the slogans saying "Death to Salman Rushdie," demonstrators also carry banners calling for the overthrow of Benazhir Bhutto's government. On her return from a trip to China, the prime minister said: The question that is a source of great anxiety to us is whether the fuss over the book is an excuse to undermine the process of democratization within the country. Many observers are inclined to think that this book is a convenient pretext for right-wing religious parties and groupings to overthrow Benazhir Bhutto under the slogan of defending Islam.

Rushdie Urged To Apologize

NC2102220189 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The ties between Iran and (?some) Western countries have (?suddenly) become strained. Iran's reaction to publication of "The Satanic Verses," a romantic novel by British writer Salman Rushdie, was the (?cause) of this state of affairs. The Iranian clergy termed this book an insult to Islam. Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian religious leader, called for the execution and murder of its writer. A reward of more than $4 million was announced for the implementation of the execution order.

In response to this measure, the British Government decided to (?review) its relations with Iran. Michel Rocard, the French prime minister, declared that he (?is in unison) with the growing indignation in the world regarding Iranian threats against Rushdie. The United States vehemently condemned the threats. Van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, has postponed his official visit to Iran as a protest against Khomeyni's utterances. Participants in the European parliamentary session in Strasbourg have threatened Iran with embargoes.

Such a nexus of events is in stark contrast to the closeness of the relations predicted between Iran and the West following the end of the Iran-Iraq war. As you know, recently diplomatic relations had been resumed between Iran and France. An exchange of diplomats had been planned after completion of some token formalities. U.S. and Iranian officials seemed willing to initiate political talks on resolving mutually conflicting issues. Suddenly a dramatic turn of events resulted in the marring of mutual relations. The reason for the destabilizing of relations is seen in the West as the illogical attitude of the Iranian authorities opposed to all internationally recognized norms.

Similarly, most Western publications believe that the reason for this attitude may [words indistinct]. In most Iranian cities, and in Tehran, demonstrations held in support of Ayatollah Khomeyni's call for the killing of Rushdie had been directed by special circles in the Iranian clergy. In addition, by inflaming the wounded sentiments of the Muslims, the clergymen are trying to reassert their control, which had been shattered in the futile, sanguinary prolonged war between Iran and Iraq. Probably there is some semblance of truth in this viewpoint. However, in our opinion, there is another aspect. In the Western mass media, on numerous occasions material has been diseminated which has—with its willful interpretation and (?analysis) of extremely sensitive issues and the values of the Islamic world—ridiculed the religious sentiments of the Iranians, and, in general, all the world's Muslims.

The issue is that the policy of most Western countries has not aligned itself by [words indistinct] with Iran. After all, those Iranians who in the past had physically endured the economic bondage of the West, and its direct aggression, will obviously display a defensive reaction to any attempt to (?force) relations based on lack of respect. We wish to be optimistic that the Iranian leaders and Western countries will take the necessary measures for eliminating the political crisis emanating from publication of the romance "The Satanic Verses." One must not permit the trend of events to metamorphose into a dangerous exacerbation of international tension.

The sides involved cannot ignore the reality that the writer of this controversial text should apologize to all those whose religious sentiments have been wounded. Publishing houses in the FRG, France, and Italy have decided to suspend publication of the book in view of Iran's change of its previous stance. On the other hand, some Islamic governments have not joined Iran in its position on the book, even though Rushdie's book is being termed anti-Islamic and they have called for a ban on its dissemination. There are already many chronic and complicated differences between Iran and the West. In this regard, the U.S. and French monopolies' efforts to (?misappropriate) Iranian assets, the U.S. economic embargo against Iran, and the presence of NATO forces in the Persian Gulf may be mentioned.

The continuing clamor on "The Satanic Verses" will only further complicate the resolution of these issues.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Meets Gorbachev, Shevardnadze

PM1902193589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 89 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev Receives Berhanu Bayeh"]

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met in the Kremlin on 17 February with Berhanu Bayeh, member

of the Politburo of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Berhanu Bayeh handed over to Mikhail Gorbachev a message from Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

An exchange of views was held on questions of Soviet-Ethiopian relations and other issues of mutual interest, which passed in an comradely and frank atmosphere.

An accord was reached in principle on Mengistu Haile Mariam's visit to the USSR. The terms of the visit will be agreed upon later.

Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, took part in the talk.

Asrat Wolde, ambassador of Ethiopia to the USSR, was present at the talk on the Ethiopian side.

Discusses African Issues

EA1902213289 Moscow International Service in Amharic 1530 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev today received and held talks with Berhanu Bayeh, the Ethiopian foreign minister, who arrived in Moscow yesterday as a special envoy of President Mengistu Haile Mariam. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, also received and held talks with Berhanu Bayeh. They extensively discussed key international issues and Mikhail Gorbachev's address at the UN General Assembly last December and his major new proposals. They discussed events in and around Afghanistan and how that and similar regional problems can be settled peacefully.

They gave special attention to the situation in the Horn of Africa and ways to establish peace and stability. It was agreed that this can be achieved by means of respect for the principles of good-neighborliness, independence, and territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual trust in intergovernmental talks. Some matters were also raised with regard to strengthening relations between Ethiopia and USSR, and sincere views were exchanged.

Leaves Moscow 21 Feb

LD2102131389 Moscow TASS in English 1259 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Berhanu Bayeh, a member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) Central Committee and Ethiopian foreign minister, departed from Moscow on Tuesday.

He was visiting as an envoy of Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the WPE Central Committee and Ethiopian president.

Commentary Views Foreign Minister's Visit

EA1902212989 Moscow International Service in Amharic 1530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Station commentary: "A Few Out of Many"]

[Text] Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and foreign minister, will arrive in Moscow today for a working visit. Now that the climate of international affairs has improved and relations between countries and peoples have expanded, the need for cooperation to bring about peace and prosperity is obvious. The African countries have their own part to play in these processes. All these countries collectively support arms reduction, curbing the threat of nuclear war, the settlement of regional conflicts, and overcoming economic backwardness.

Ethiopia is one of the countries which actively participate in African and international issues. Ethiopia enjoys a good reputation in Africa for humiliating colonialists and preserving its independence. It is not by chance that the OAU was founded in Addis Ababa. OAU headquarters and headquarters of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and of other African and regional organizations are based in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia has gained the respect of many countries by virtue of its peaceful and freedom-loving foreign policy. Ethiopia has often mediated regional and border conflicts.

Ethiopia is now being consulted in discussions on international issues. In January, Ethiopia became a temporary member of the UN Security Council. Ethiopia has strong and wide-ranging relations with South Yemen and Djibouti. Ethiopia is also striving to improve relations with other neighboring countries, especially Somalia and Sudan. It is ready to cooperate with donor countries with goodwill, regardless of political differences, and on the basis of the principles of nonalignment. Ethiopia's friendly relations with socialist countries are growing stronger. Its party, government, and economic ties with the USSR, the CSSR, the PRC, the DPRK, and others are expanding.

Last year President Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader, visited the USSR and held talks with party and government leaders. Exchanges of visits between representatives of the Ethiopian and Soviet parliaments have served to promote Soviet-Ethiopian relations.

Ethiopian Resettlement Producing Results

EA2002171289 Moscow International Service in Amharic 1530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[From the "Africa As We See It" program]

[Text] It is now the season of short rains in Ethiopia. There are clouds in the sky and farmers are happy because when it rains, a bumper harvest can be had. As is known, heavy rains fell during July and August 1988, soaking Ethiopian soil, which had missed rain for many

years. [passage indistinct] Among the important steps taken was the [sefera] resettlement program. Peasants in the country were transferred to many villages surrounded by fertile lands. Those farmers who have adapted themselves to their new places of residence now play a major part in the country's economy by providing agricultural produce. The country's agricultural output can be increased through peasant cooperative associations and stepped up output by individuals. Inasmuch as purchase prices for food and grain have increased and the government has taken steps to stabilize the grain trade, the farmers have an incentive. All the steps taken to solve the food problem have had fruitful results.

On the other hand, it is evident that Ethiopia must do much more to achieve food self-sufficiency. Meanwhile, Ethiopia continues to request foreign countries to provide food aid. However, the results achieved by Ethiopia's farmers indicate the correctness of the agricultural policy pursued by the Ethiopian Workers Party and the Ethiopian Government.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Zimbabwe Envoy

LD1802003589 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR Leonid Ilyichev received the Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe in the USSR Misheck Julius Mpanda Sibanda, a representative of the country which is now chairman of the Non-Alignment Movement.

The ambassador was informed about the situation in Afghanistan following the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal. Leonid Ilyichev stressed the pressing need for a ceasefire in that country, a constructive inter-Afghan dialogue in order to form a government on broad-based [word indistinct] and said that a stake at force can only lead to escalation of the war and bloodshed.

East Europe

CSSR Court Sentences Charter-77's Havel

LD2202134089 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] According to a CTK report, Vaclav Havel, a leader of the Charter-77 opposition group, has been sentenced to 9 months of deprivation of freedom. This verdict was announced by Prague's Third District Court after examining charges against Havel for inciting mass disorders at Vaclav Square in Prague last January. He was also charged with actions which prevented public security bodies from carrying out their professional duties. Havel did not plead guilty. During the trial, the testimony of seven witnesses was heard and other evidence was submitted.

CPCZ Addresses People on 1948 Anniversary

PM2202145589 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Toward Renewal"]

[Text] CSSR central newspapers yesterday published a CPCZ Central Committee Presidium address to the Czechoslovak people to mark the 41st anniversary of victorious February—the victory of Czechoslovak working people over the forces of reaction in 1948.

It stressed the tremendous achievements achieved on the path of socialist building under the leadership of the CPCZ in all spheres of life. A new phase of social development has now begun—the path of consistent economic intensification and modernization and of speeding up economic and social development. The country has begun the comprehensive restructuring of all spheres of public life on the basis of the decisions of the 17th CPCZ Congress and under the influence of the CPSU's new political course. We see it as the extension of the socialist revolution under new conditions. The program of restructuring and democratization has met with broad support from the party and society. This year intensive preparations have begun for the 18th CPCZ Congress. The party, the address said, inspired restructuring and is the main motivating force behind it. Complete ideological and organizational unity and close ties with the people are of crucial significance in order for it to perform its mission. In order to achieve the aims mapped out, a creative atmosphere and democracy are necessary where trust, discipline, and responsibility prevail and a person's rights are linked with his obligations. That is the only way to resist everything that is retarding or jeopardizing the process of restructuring and democratization.

Impact of 1968 Events on CSSR Assessed

PM2002150389 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[APN political observer Ye. Ryabtsev "Observer's Opinion" for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "Reflections in a Smooth Lake"]

[Text] Prague-Moscow—How do our friends in the socialist countries see the processes of restructuring in the USSR? What do Czechs and Slovaks think of us and themselves? My recent brief stay in this country does not give me the right to make an in-depth analysis of the sights and sounds I experienced, especially in light of January's events on Wenceslas Square in Prague.

From my conversations and meetings, however, I sensed in tangible terms a mood that favors reappraising much of what has happened here since 1945. Just as in our country, strenuous mental activity is under way in the CSSR as they analyze their historical path.

The notions about the fraternal countries that most of us developed during the years of stagnation as a result of glossy, official propaganda did not always reflect a true picture of life, either of us or our friends. But I was told that the Soviet Union's prestige among the people here was exceptionally high prior to 1968.

As we know, the entry of five socialist countries' troops into Czechoslovakia in 1968 provoked a complex reaction. Some people regarded it as important support in the struggle to preserve the foundations of socialism; others were shocked by this action. This state of shock later gave way to a sense of profound disappointment and outraged national dignity and even promoted the emergence of anti-Soviet sentiments among some people. What happened, happened, and you can't rewrite history.

A definite depoliticization occurred within society. The opinion began to be current among some people that if Communists want something, let them do it themselves. A sense of despair regarding socialist society's capacities for development emerged within individual ranks of the intelligentsia. According to my interlocutors, people began to prefer to discuss their own family affairs and became unreceptive to official slogans and appeals. According to an assessment by the director of the institute of forecasting, a considerable proportion of society began to show skepticism regarding socialism's historical mission.

There were other reasons for this. In 1948 Czechoslovakia was one of the world's top 10 industrially developed countries. Today it is in 40th place. This occurred under socialism and naturally prompts the question: What is the advantage of the system then? If we proceed on the premise that hundreds of thousands of CSSR inhabitants are linked by close ties with their compatriots who have settled in other countries in the course of several waves of emigration, this question is indisputably on many people's lips.

The presence in this country of almost 20 million foreign tourists each year, mostly from Austria and the FRG, also aggravates this question. The population listens, reads, and asks questions and compares living standards, rights, and social opportunities in West and East. If public life in the CSSR has been reminiscent of a smooth lake over the last few years, this picture has not reflected what was happening deep down.

Our restructuring has aroused exceptional and genuine interest. People listen to the radio, watch television, read newspapers and journals, and sometimes reprint and circulate the most interesting material linked with restructuring.

However, some members of the party and people who well remember the events of 1945 and 1948, fail to understand the Soviet wave of criticism regarding its own history and the activity of the party and its former leaders.

This is quite understandable if you take into consideration the fact that there is no uniform opinion on this in our country. That is why it isn't surprising that many people in the CSSR still associate the personality of Stalin with the Red Army's mission of liberation and the USSR's aid. You can't erase overnight images that have become firmly established over many years.

CPCZ workers assess their activity self-critically. They admit that they have not taken sufficient account of the work of oppositionists (whom it would be more correct to consider simply as dissidents), have not endeavored to gain an in-depth understanding of the essence of the problems that have cropped up, and have pretended that the group "Charter-77" did not exist. The events of mid-January on splendid Wenceslas Square have undoubtedly caused some adjustments in this work. The demonstration to mark the 20th anniversary of Jan Palach's self-immolation attracted the entire Republic's attention, above all by unwarranted—in the opinion of many Czechoslovaks—actions on the part of law and order organs. At the same time the recent terrorist act — the explosion of a bomb in the Usti nad Labem Kraj and city national committees building confirms that forces that find the existing system uncongenial are operating in the country.

People in the CPCZ today believe that working with oppositionists and illegal organizations should not be the prerogative solely of the state security organs. The party is arranging dialogue with creative forces and seeking its own ways of working with informals and is, of course, like us, trying to critically analyze the experience of the past.

My new Czechoslovak friends said with conviction that the development of democracy and glasnost and the political and economic reforms will undoubtedly speed up the development of socialism not only in our country but also in the CSSR.

Observer Comments on Situation in Hungary

LD1702122489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1054 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (TASS)—TASS political observer Aleksandr Kondrashov writes:

The problems facing Hungary have become much clearer—though no simpler—and this undoubtedly makes the path toward solving them easier. That, it seems, is the principal result of the MSZMP Central Committee Plenum which ended recently.

Quite a few questions have arisen in recent months not only from the foreign public but, as the plenum showed, from the Hungarian public about the many new events and phenomena that burst rapidly onto the country's political scene after the all-Hungarian party conference. The creation of numerous alternative organizations and even new fledged parties, the MSZMP's attitude toward

their frequently challenging actions and calls, and the contradictory pronouncements by members of the MSZMP leadership on controversial problems of the past and present have all given rise to anxious forecasts which require an answer and an appraisal.

At the same time, it is obvious that time is needed to interpret what is happening and to work out principled party positions on all these issues and others. The speech delivered at the plenum by MSZMP General Secretary Karoly Grosz provided an answer to many of them. Most importantly, it showed that the party is keeping a close watch on events, is making a principled assessment of the actions of forces arranged against it, and is devising new political methods for leading society.

We should emphasize one more feature: optimism in the appraisals and predictions of the MSZMP leader's speech. In his frank words about the difficulties, errors, and negative phenomena and trends, there was at the same time a firm assurance that the MSZMP is capable of overcoming them, of continuing the course of renewal which it has started, and of uniting Hungarian society in the new conditions. I believe this is a fully justified assurance because the complex process of renewing Hungarian society was begun precisely on the initiative of the party; it is proceeding under its leadership, no matter how much political opponents within the country and in the West may try to dispute this, and will continue under its aegis and influence. The MSZMP has consciously taken on the difficult burden of leading society out of a protracted crisis, and it has the right to see and to assess its future.

In this context, it is obviously necessary to examine the decision adopted by the plenum on the creation of a multiparty system in the country. The Western press has evaluated this as a sign of weakness by the MSZMP. In my view, this is a deliberate, albeit specific, move toward a more complex and contemporary model of socialist society and the result of a realistic analysis of the situation which has evolved in the country. Of course, a multiparty system in itself would scarcely be conducive to accomplishing economic tasks or easing the social tension in society. This was demonstrated by the plenum itself, the materials of which emphasize the groundlessness of the illusions connected with a multiparty system, and which express the conviction that in order to achieve the goals set in the economy and in policy, what are required, first and foremost, are an accord between all the political forces, gradualness and stability, and the maintenance of order and tranquility.

As you can imagine, in Hungary we are now observing an increase in the importance of the party's strategy and tactics. The decision to set up a multiparty system in the Hungarian People's Republic is undoubtedly an important tactical concession to the forces which do not share the MSZMP's position. At the same time does this step really run counter to the party's strategic aims—the creation of a socialist society with a stable economy and a developed system of democratic institutions? In modern Hungary it is obvious that the path toward these aims lies through uniting society, through compromise and rivalry of positions and opinions, and not through bans and restrictions.

Frankly speaking, it is fairly difficult to give assessments of the positions which have been expressed lately regarding the 1956 events. It is not even a matter of the contradictoriness of the views of the MSZMP leaders which have been expressed in this connection. The main thing is that, in spite of the study submitted by a MSZMP Central Committee commission, work on formulating the party's integral position regarding this national tragedy has not yet been completed. As was stressed at the plenum, it is necessary to continue research on the basis of new facts and international documents. It seems that the latter are especially important. When assessing the 1956 events in Hungary we must not disregard the obvious facts of the incitement of antigovernment demonstrations from the West and the involvement of reactionary emigre circles. It is just as appropriate to study the assessments of the 1956 events given in the socialist countries, including Yugoslavia and China, as well as by Western sources, which paint an unambiguous picture of the West's participation in implementing the rebels' counterrevolutionary plans. In our view cooperation with the Soviet side is also expedient—an objective, strictly documentary study of all the motives which induced the Soviet leadership in the period of the salutary process of democratization of Soviet society, which was getting under way after the 20th congress, to embark on such an extreme measure as the use of armed force to prevent the counterrevolution in Hungary.

MSZMP Submits Document on Multiparty System

PM1902191189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
17 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "MSZMP Central Committee Draft Resolution"]

[Text] Budapest, 16 Feb—The Hungarian press today publishes an MSZMP Central Committee draft resolution, submitted for nationwide debate, on certain topical issues in the reform of the political system.

The MSZMP, the document states, is continuing to strive to fulfill its determining role in society. Its political importance, the course of ensuring democratic development down the socialist road, the social base, and historical experience are the basis for this.

In the period since the Hungarian national party conference last May, the draft goes on to note, openness has expanded in the country, and the process of democratizing the system of political institutions and developing pluralism has begun. However, despite all the efforts made, it has not yet proved possible to set up a structure

of democratic institutions which would reflect a multiplicity of interests and ensure their representation. In this regard the MSZMP Central Committee proposes that the process of the democratic implementation of power be developed within the framework of the multiparty system under social control.

The draft resolution states that the consistent transition to a multiparty system can only be implemented as the result of natural social processes. In the MSZMP Central Committee's opinion, society is not yet prepared for the rapid introduction of a new political structure based on a multiparty system. The destabilization of this process, the loss of control over it, and the creation of an atmosphere of anarchy would be a particular danger.

The MSZMP is prepared to conduct bilateral and multilateral talks with all organizations acting within the framework of the law on new ways of implementing power. The condition for cooperation with them should be observance of the provisions of the Constitution and the laws, recognition of the socialist path of development, and respect for international alliance commitments.

Zhivkov Meets Intelligentsia Figures on Reform

PM2202145889 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Intelligentsia's Responsibility"]

[Text] Sofia, 21 Feb—The Bulgarian intelligentsia's tasks in restructuring society and questions of socialist building in Bulgaria at the present stage were examined at a meeting held here between the BCP Central Committee Politburo and figures in the fields of art, science, culture, and education.

The experience and example of the Land of the Soviets and its political vanguard, the CPSU, play a decisive role in the international experience of the renewal of socialism, it is stressed in BCP Central Committee General Secretary T. Zhivkov's report, which was circulated among the participants in the meeting. Restructuring in Bulgaria coincides as a course, a strategy, an upsurge, with what is happening in the Soviet Union. On this basis our fraternal friendship and cooperation are developing in all spheres.

The complex processes taking place in the sphere of material and spiritual culture enhance the intelligentsia's role in society. The need has now arisen to reevaluate a number of provisions in the sphere of the philosophy and theory of scientific socialism, economic science, and law, the document goes on. In particular, the evaluations of stages in the development of Bulgarian society that have existed in the past should be discussed. Taking into account the level of development of production forces and corresponding production relations, we are building the foundations of socialism. In view of this, we should abandon the formula of the developed socialist society. Questions of restructuring the party's work must be studied. We are not yet ready to propose a new party program, T. Zhivkov noted, just as we are not ready to write a BCP history in the next few years. To do this it is necessary to study a number of problems and clarify views on the stages of Bulgarian society's development. In the future we should increase the role and significance of the party statutes and prepare proposals on changes to the statutes for submission to the 14th BCP Congress. One fundamental question of restructuring is legal reform.

'War of Nerves' in Poland Over Strikes

PM2102163489 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent L. Toporkov report: "War of Nerves"]

[Text] Warsaw—The wave of strikes that swept through the country and has not yet spent itself on the breakwaters of common sense is called the "Belchatow syndrome" here. I recently reported in IZVESTIYA what happened at the Belchatow open-cut coal mine. The miners demanded an immediate wage increase of Z30,000 each. What matters is not how well each person works, but that everyone should receive equal shares. True, they did not manage to obtain 30,000, only 21,000 each. It was decided to suspend the strike until the end of February "for political reasons," in order, it was explained, to "save" the "roundtable."

It was in Belchatow that the race for unearned zlotys really began. The logic is simple: If the strike blackmail ended at the cashier's desk for the miners, we are no worse than they: "Everyone has to eat."

The well-known journalist and writer K. Kozniewski comments bitterly in TRYBUNA LUDU: "'Belchatow syndrome' is objectively directed against everyone, and at a time when an important decision is taking place in the capital about national consensus, about social harmony, without which the success of the reforms is inconceivable. Why against everyone, against the whole of society? If labor remuneration increases today under the strike threat, and is thus not accompanied by increased production, tomorrow it will be swallowed up by merciless inflation—price rises. Those are the iron laws of economics. The strike in Belchatow, held against all economic logic and prompting a string of conflicts in other places," the author notes, "is evidence of a dangerous phenomenon: Strikers show with their every action that they do not want changes in the economic system. They long for one thing alone: Give us money today, as much as possible, and tomorrow can go to the devil. This is a terrible disease—the loss of a sense of state and social interests, moral duties to your own people."

Bitter words. They are understandable, because day after day the newspapers publish reports reminiscent of dispatches from the front. A strike by transport workers in Piotrkow Trybunalski and in Sieradz, by textile workers in Ozorkow and Lodz, at the construction machines plant in Ciechanow, in dozens of other cities... What is happening? Who is inciting people to strike, who heads the strikes? What are the objectives of the "war of nerves," as people call the conflicts at enterprises?

They say they all arise spontaneously. But in that case how do you explain the strange situation at the transport enterprise in Piotrkow Trybunalski, where the strike lasted 10 days? There, figures from the local illegal "Solidarity" took charge. They seized the premises of the legitimate trade union, together with the cash box and all the financial documents. The "roundtable" working party on questions of trade union pluralism is engaged in heated debates on the subject of recognition of "Solidarity" and the need to show mutual tolerance and refrain from confrontation. But practice shows something entirely different. So much for pluralism!

The appeal by participants in the "roundtable" representing the opposition, including L. Walesa, to the working people to stop the strikes did not succeed. The "war of nerves" goes on.

PZPR Delegation Visits Moscow, Volgograd

PM2002091589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A group of PZPR Central Committee members who familiarized themselves with the experience of party work in the sphere of industry under conditions of the new economic mechanism were in the Soviet Union 13-18 February in accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the PZPR.

The Polish comrades had meetings and talks at the CPSU Central Committee Socioeconomic Department, Volgograd CPSU Obkom, the capital's Cheremushkinskiy CPSU Raykom, and a number of party committees and labor collectives in Moscow nad Volgograd.

Outcome of LCY Plenum, Cadre Changes Reviewed

PM2102135989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent L. Kolosov dispatch under the rubric "Abroad": "Yugoslavia—LCY Central Committee Plenum Completes Its Work"]

[Text] Belgrade—The 21st LCY Central Committee Plenum has come to a close. It has mainly been concerned with cadre renewal of the party leadership. One-third of the LCY Central Committee has been renewed. Thirty-three new members have been elected.

The leaders of federal and local bodies of authority and of numerous sociopolitical organizations have left the LCY Central Committee, as have those members who have already been repeatedly elected to the LCY Central Committee. The LCY Central Committee Presidium itself has been substantially renewed. The following new members have replaced those who have left: P. Vukotic, M. Grbovic, B. Muzevic, and S. Radmilovic. Representatives of Bosnia, Hercegovina, and Kosovo (the candidacy from this autonomous province was rejected in the elections to the Central Committee) will be elected to the LCY Central Committee Presidium at subsequent plenums. Several party functionaries have been removed from the LCY Central Committee for abuses connected with the unlawful construction of private dachas on the Adriatic. They included: M. Andric, H. Istuk, M. Renovica, and N. Stojanovic. R. Dizdarevic and P. Matic have resigned as members of the LCY Central Committee, as they fulfill state functions. People here believe that cadre renewal in the leading bodies of the party is a serious step toward realizing the reforms of the country's economic and political system.

The Yugoslav newspaper BORBA recently published a selection of responses by republic party workers to the question of what criteria they felt should guide the party in renewing its apparatus. One of the responses ran as follows: "The LCY leadership must follow Leninist principles. Acting in this way means emphasizing such qualities in the party worker as knowledge of the business at hand, responsibility, and personal modesty and honesty. This is the only way to ensure that there will be no place for bureaucrats and careerists within the LCY."

When talking about political and economic reforms, Yugoslavia does not imply any supplanting of socialism. No one in Yugoslavia wants to abandon socialist self-management. However, as most people in the party realize, it must exist *within the framework of a market economy and the all-round democratization of the political system* (the italics are my own—L.K.). Some people are worried by this. Will this not begin the restoration of capitalism?

In my view, there does not seem to be any reason for this alarm. Literally the other day BORBA conducted a public opinion poll in the six republics. Those who took part in this most interesting poll were asked the following question:

"What kind of political system do you feel Yugoslavia needs today?"

I will not go into the details of the poll. It is quite complex, and a great deal of newspaper space would be needed to analyze the tables carried by BORBA. So I will just give you the general results. A total of 69 percent of

the respondents were in favor of socialist self-management. Many Yugoslav Communists would like to see Yugoslavia build socialism on the basis of socialist self-management, overcoming past mistakes and shortcomings.

Zorin Comments on Changes in Albanian Policy

LD1802131289 Moscow Telvision Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Feb 89

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] I would like to reply to letters from several of our viewers who would like to hear whether there have been changes in the policies of the Albanian leadership toward the Soviet Union. This question can be answered very briefly: At present there is no basis to speak of any changes. As the Yugoslav magazine NIN noted a few days ago, 3 years after his death, the spirit of Enver Hoxha continues to dominate Albania. Even the slightest attempts to depart from the dogmatic Stalinisms preached by Enver Hoxha are encountering a firm rebuff in Tirana today. One member of the Albanian leadership at the end of last year, in a conference of propagandists in Tirana, merely said that that practice should be a criterion of truth and that problems have to be approached creatively. It was enough for the custodian of the Hoxha inheritance, his widow Nexhmije Hoxha, who holds an important position among the Tirana bosses, to pronounce such statements bourgeois and revisionist.

But it would also be wrong not to see some new tendencies which perhaps would have been impossible when Hoxha was alive. Economic necessity is forcing the Albanian leadership to think about coming out of the economic—and recently political—isolation. Steps are being taken to expand Albania's international contacts. But things have not gotten as far as serious changes in their course, while anti-Sovietism continues to persevere in the Albanian press.

West Europe

Vorontsov Holds Talks on Afghanistan in Rome

LD2102195589 Moscow TASS in English 1937 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Rome February 21 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, deputy foreign minister of the USSR and Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, who was staying here, met and talked with Bruno Bottai, general secretary of the Italian Foreign Ministry, Giorgio Napolitano, member of the Italian Communist Party leadership, and also Angelo Sodano, head of the Foreign Policy Department of the Vatican.

The Soviet side paid main attention to the discussion of ways to achieve a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan problem, an end to bloodshed, and the need to give humanitarian aid to the Afghan population. Both sides expressed readiness to vigorously facilitate a positive solution to these pressing issues.

Voronin Meets Mitterrand, Rocard in Paris

LD1802214789 Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Paris February 17 TASS—Chairman of the Soviet section of the standing mixed Soviet-French (grand) commission for scientific-technological and economic cooperation, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Lev Voronin, now present here on the occasion of the commission's 23rd session, was received today by President of France Francois Mitterrand. They reaffirmed mutual interest in further positive development of Soviet-French relations in different areas. It was noted that both sides should take concrete steps to put into life the fundamental accords on economic cooperation.

Specially underlined was the importance of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to France, due this year, which is bound to lend a new dynamic spirit and depth to the political Soviet-French dialogue, a new quality to its bilateral cooperation. An exchange of opinions was held on some prospective areas of cooperation between the two countries, now that both sides are conducting intensive preparations for the Soviet-French summit meeting.

Some international problems, specifically the situation in Afghanistan, were discussed.

Speaking on behalf of the Soviet leadership and all Soviet people, Lev Voronin expressed sincere gratitude to the president for France's solidarity in connection with the earthquake in Armenia, for the assistance being given in restoration of earthquake-hit towns.

Lev Voronin also had a meeting with Prime Minister of France Michel Rocard. At the request of the head of the French Government he dwelt in detail on the course of a radical economic reform in the USSR, bound to tap the potentialities of the economic mechanism and every enterprise, on its first positive results and arising difficulties. Michel Rocard noted the vast and bold goals of perestroyka in the Soviet Union and wished it success.

Questions of further development of trade-economic and scientific-technological cooperation were discussed and the results of the 23rd grand commission session were summed up. The two sides stressed the need for perfecting the forms and mechanism of cooperation, a fuller use of potentialities of medium-size and small enterprises and noted the importance of creating a favourable climate and removing all sorts of restrictions and obstacles to the development of trade and economic relations.

USSR Ambassador in France Yakov Ryabov and France's Ambassador in the Soviet Union Yves Pagniez attended the meetings.

Soviet-French Commission Signs Agreements

PM2102102989 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 89 p 3

[Own correspondent N. Dolgopolov report: "Businessmen's Forum"]

[Text] Paris—The 23d session of the standing Soviet-French joint commission ended 17 February in Paris.

Both we and the French are happy with the results of the work. There is mutual understanding, and a specific approach has been found. Whereas on average the volume of trade with Western partners increased last year by 2.5 percent, with France it jumped by 6 percent. Fourteen Soviet-French joint ventures have been set up. In the past few days in Paris several new agreements have been formulated, for example, on the encouragement and mutual protection of capital investments and on the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It is pleasing that cooperation in training cadres is gathering strength. It is quite probable that France will buy more natural gas from us than in the past. We intend to use the profit to buy light industry goods here.

Nonetheless, as delegation leader L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet-French joint commission, noted at a meeting with journalists, out of 150,000 French companies only a little over 200 are represented on the Soviet market and only 15-20 major firms are setting the tone. Old prejudices and inertia—both on our part and on the part of the French—Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] bans, and poor information are a hindrance.

I asked L.A. Voronin to summarize briefly the results of the 23d session:

"The dialogue was more frank, and participation in it by official representatives is now much broader," Lev Alekseyevich said. "We hope that our work created one of the preconditions for the success of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's upcoming visit to France."

"How do you view the restrictions imposed by Cocom for several years now on the delivery of output to the USSR?" I asked P. Beregovoy, chairman of the Soviet-French joint commission, minister of state, and minister of economy, finance and the budget:

"Questions of Cocom did not arise at this session. I can repeat that the Cocom rules must be observed."

Latin America & Caribbean

Foreign Ministry Views Central American Summit

LD2102234289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1750 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (TASS)—A statement by the USSR Foreign Ministry was circulated here today. It says:

The results of the meeting of the presidents of five Central American countries held recently in El Salvador are positively appraised in the Soviet Union and are viewed as the striving of those countries to give a fresh impetus to the process of talks aimed at achieving a final political settlement of the crisis in the region.

The realism displayed by the participants in the meeting and the reaffirmation of the realization of the pointlessness of a military solution to the conflict, the clear-cut stress placed on the possibility of settling it only on the basis of mutual consideration for the interests of all sides in the spirit of the principles of the new political thinking, have made it possible for a number of fundamentally important decisions to be worked out, first and foremost the question of the contra groups, whose activities against the Nicaraguan Government are a constant source of tension in the region. The leaders of the Central American states have agreed to prepare in no less than 3 months a joint plan of voluntary demobilization, repatriation, or resettlement in Nicaragua, and in third countries, for the members of these groups. A particular role in the adoption of this important decision was played by Nicaragua and Honduras, which is worried by the encroachment on its national interests by the armed contra detachments on its territory.

During the meeting the sincere aspiration of the Government of Nicaragua to seek mutually acceptable solutions of the conflict was again demonstrated. The new, far-reaching initiatives of the Sandinist leadership aim to further democratize the country's internal political life, and include the readiness to hold early general elections with the participation of international observers. They are creating favorable possibilities for an acceleration of the process of national reconciliation in Nicaragua and normalization of the situation in the region as a whole. Such a flexible and constructive attitude cannot fail to evoke a positive reaction in the world.

The address by the heads of Central American states to the governments of countries not involved in the conflict with an appeal to halt direct or indirect aid (apart from humanitarian) to irregular groups operating in the countries of Central America is perceived as a manifestation of genuine concern for a speedy establishment of peace in the region.

It also indicates that the participants in the meeting in El Salvador take as their starting point the need to cooperate with the United Nations in solving a number of practical questions of a peace settlement in Central America. Such an approach is fully justified, given the enhanced role of the United Nations in unblocking complex regional situations.

In the forthcoming period the main task of the states of Central America, who are members of the Contadora process, and of the entire international community obviously consists of ensuring favorable conditions for stable, irreversible progress in eliminating this remaining hotbed of tension and implementing the decisions made at the El Salvador meeting.

As for the Soviet Union, it is ready in the future, too, to give active assistance to improve the situation in Central America and to ensure peaceful, good-neighborly, and equitable cooperation between the countries of the region.

Commentary Praises Ortega Proposal at Summit

PA1802225489 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Commentary by Leonid Levchenko]

[Text] The five Central American presidents have succeeded in overcoming the disagreements that forced them to postpone their summit more than once and have achieved a significant agreement.

The contribution of each of the countries was obviously positive, but I believe the proposal that broke the peace process deadlock was that presented by the Nicaraguan president, upon which the other presidents agreed.

Nicaragua will hold general elections on 25 February 1990 to elect a president, vice president, deputies, and local government officials.

All political parties will have the opportunity to try to win the confidence of the voters. In other words, the democratization process in Nicaragua continues. It began after the triumph of the revolution, but it was severely hindered by the actions of the Nicaraguan armed opposition, which currently has military bases in Honduras.

In accordance with the agreements signed in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, within 3 months the Central American countries will prepare a joint plan for the voluntary repatriation of the contras living in Honduras and their transfer to other countries.

The end of the war threat represented by the armed opposition and its participation in the process of national reconciliation will bring about political solutions in Nicaragua and will bring stability to the region.

CPSU Delegation Meets Cuban Official

PM2002091989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Stay"]

[Text] Havana, 18 Feb—The CPSU delegation that is here headed by O.I. Ozherelyev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Ideological Department, has been received by Carlos Aldana, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Secretariat.

During the talks the delegation was familiarized with the progress in fulfilling the resolutions of the Third PCC Congress and with the process being implemented in the country of rectifying mistakes and eliminating negative trends. C. Aldana described in detail the state of the party's ideological work and ways of enhancing its role in socialist transformations.

The Soviet delegation provided information on the new phase of restructuring in the USSR and the deepening of the radical economic and political reform, democratization, and glasnost.

Yu.V. Petrov, USSR ambassador to Cuba, took part in the talks.

Nuclear Safety Pact Signed With Cuba

LD1902122589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0350 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Summary] Havana, 19 February (TASS)—A Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental agreement has been signed here to assist Cuba in the organization and activities of the state bodies supervising safety in the exploitation of atomic power stations and other nuclear projects put up in Cuba with the aid of the USSR. The document was signed by V.M. Malyshev, chairman of the USSR State Committee To Supervise Work Safety in the Nuclear Power Industry, and Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of Cuban Atomic Energy Commission (CEAC).

The agreement envisions the Soviet side equipping labs and services with appropriate technical systems and a transfer of normative and technical documentation. The Soviet consultants will also render necessary assistance

in the radiation control services organization on locations, while Cuban experts will undergo training at atomic power stations in the USSR.

At present the USSR is assisting Cuba in building the "Juragua" atomic power station, not far from Cienfuegos. After the four reactors are put into operation, 1,600 mw of power will be produced. Taken into account were all safety requirements as well as the possibilities of an off-shore earthquake, causing waves 30 meters high, and a 20-tonne airplane crashing on the power station. A laboratory to supervise radioactive levels outside is being built simultaneously with the power station. Twenty-eight dosimetric posts for measuring the radioactivity level of the environment are also being built.

Gorbachev Thanks Arias for Quake Aid
PA1802225289 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Feb 89 p 6A

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev thanked President Oscar Arias and the people of Costa Rica for "their compassion and solidarity during Armenia's fateful hour of misfortune."

In a message to President Arias, Gorbachev added that the recent earthquake in Armenia generated a wave of humanitarianism, thus showing that countries should not only unite to "combat the blind forces of nature but also to solve the global problems affecting humanity."

Political & Social

Gorbachev Visits Lvov, Ukraine; Meets Residents

Talks to Television Plant Workers

LD2102203189 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived today in Lvov from Kiev. He visied the Elektron scientific and production association. Here is his conversation with the enterprise's workers.

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] I must say that the first television set that Raisa Maksimovna and I bought was an Elektron.

[Raisa] It was very good.

[Gorbachev] And it worked well then. Do they work now?

[Man] Even better.

[Second man] Mikhail Sergeyevich, we think that....

[Raisa, interrupting] It worked for 20 years.

[Gorbachev] The Elektron worked for 20 years. Will it work for at least 20 days now?

[Voices] Yes, it will; it works all right; twice as long as before.

[Gorbachev] It was a good television set, a good one.

[Man] Our output at the Elektron is either good, or no output at all.

[Gorbachev] That would be wonderful. This is a good principle. So people say, one firm, so to speak, if you arm yourselves with this principle....

[Man, interrupting] We have already adopted it.

[Gorbachev, continuing]...either good output or else better no output at all. [sentence as heard] Such a time has come when you yourselves have to earn money, and this depends only on the quality, first of all; of course, a certain quantity, too. Second, it will not be sold otherwise, it will not be sold because we have no market, so to speak.

[Voices] It will. Mikhail Sergeyevich, our customers have become choosy too, not as they were before. They are demanding; they have become more competent.

[Gorbachev] But who would want this: you buy some item....

[Man, interrupting] An expensive one.

[Gorbachev] Especially an expensive one, which is to serve for a number of years, you bring it home and then the trouble starts. The television set does not work, the vacuum cleaner breaks down, or the electric cooker has a fault, or other problems, and the radio—well, this is a misfortune. But today's family lives in the modern world, and it is already difficult to imagine a present-day family without all the radio and electrical equipment, and not only in cities but in villages too.

Your firm is well known, both in this country and abroad, so you should maintain your reputation. All in all, it is gratifying for people in some way. Second, it is such a responsible time now, and all enterprises and labor collectives should master another way of life, financial autonomy, self-financing. They themselves are building, exploring technical problems, and dealing with various issues of rest and everyday life. All this is now being restructured. Ours is a very complex time, and it does not yield easy solutions. You, too, maybe, were in a fever for some time, you could feel that. Maybe there were differences in income, and all that had its effect.

[Man] Of course.

[Gorbachev] But it was not in vain, was it? You have borne it and look, now you both feel good and people enjoy the fruits of your work. It is necessary to restructure the whole country in this mood. This is what every labor collective, scientific institution, kolkhoz and sovkhoz, or construction site needs.

Speaking about construction sites, what a great deal of work is yet to be done there! Let us put it straight: Much in that area will depend on restructuring. Look, if construction is carried out the same way as now in the country, housing will be in turmoil and the problem may become [word indistinct], and this is something that concerns all of you. Individual construction is developing now. Many people have decided to have their own houses, so to speak. But again, construction materials are required for one to be able to buy what one needs. So this area should be developed, too.

Finally, all enterprises need reconstruction and new equipment, and this again points to construction workers. Therefore especially significant changes should take place in construction. I will say straight out that so far, capital construction has restructured itself worst of all. Our concern is to solve this problem already in the next few months. There, too, we hope that the working class will support us. Very interesting proposals are being elaborated.

[Man] Mikhail Sergeyevich, we have assimilated R8 million by the direct labor method.

[Gorbachev] And this way, all of us, all together, should do what we have to do, in any sector or direction we take. [end recording]

Television Reports Factory Visit

LD2102221189 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 21 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev arrived in Lvov today. [video shows Gorbachev descending aircraft steps with Shcherbitskiy at his side, followed by Raisa and unidentified man; girls in national costume are on parade] At the airport the first conversation was held between the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and representatives of the working people of Lvov Oblast. [video shows Gorbachev chatting with groups of people, then getting into car; shots of motorcade on road]

The Lvov Elektron scientific production association—Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev visited here today.

[Begin recording; video shows medium shot of Elektron building, Gorbachev chatting to workers] [passage omitted] [Gorbachev] The fact that you are producing very good output is very important.

[Woman] We are trying to produce top quality.

[Gorbachev] Very important, well done! That is why your firm is well known in our country and abroad [words indistinct].

That's the first thing I would like to say to you. The second thing is this: At the airport, where we met with the machine tool workers, they were mostly men—but here you are in the majority. But still, you know, it is such a responsible time now. All enterprises and labor collectives have to master another way of life, other things: financial autonomy, self-financing. They themselves are building, studying technical matters, questions of leisure and everyday life—all this is now being restructured. This is a very complex time, and it does not yield easy solutions. We must move forward. The fact that you have got over your problems and started to move on a broad path: that's fine. That's what's needed in every works collective, in every scientific establishment, in every kolkhoz and sovkhoz, at every building site.

And if we are talking about building sites, what a great deal of work is still to be done there! Let's be blunt. We learned today that one worker asked: How will things be at the building sites? A lot here will depend on restructuring. Look, if construction is carried out as it is now in the country, housing will be in a fever. And, lastly, all enterprises need reconstruction and new equipment. This again points to the construction workers. Therefore, especially significant changes should take place in construction. I will say bluntly that so far capital construction has restructured itself worst of all. And it is our concern to solve this problem in the next few months. And there, too, we hope the working class will support us in that area. The last Central Committee meeting showed that the workers are in favor of socialism, but we must do everything (?that we started), so we have real socialism—at the enterprise, in the soviet—so that it is truly of the people. So the voice of the worker may be heard there, and taken into consideration everywhere. That's the plan. So I am saying that all this, our policy, is for the working people.

The strain might get greater and there may be more difficulties.

[Man] The economy must be democratic.

[Gorbachev] Democratic, you're right.

[Man] It concerns all social strata.

[Gorbachev] Are you following what we are doing in foreign policy?

[Voices] Yes, we are following everything.

[Gorbachev] You know what we want. We must live with all people, as people. Other people can organize their societies and their lives, and we shall organize our own. Let them not interfere with us, and we won't interfere with them. And it is evident then who and how we can do things better. Let's have competition. We have proposed this. Let it be this way: with the trust of one people in another, one country in another. And in politics, in politics, thus must be taken into consideration. But then, look, the nuclear threat exists, the ecology question has been intensified, it has embraced whole continents, the whole of Europe, and in our country you understand just how many problems there are. Raw material resources are being stretched—all these ozone layers, the atmosphere. Efforts must be pooled. All this is an international matter. You can't solve it on your own, even a country cannot. That's a fact of ecology and nuclear matters. We must establish who, what people, wants either a slow death or a terrible death or [words indistinct]. Everyone rejects this. And in politics, finally, this opinion, this mood of the people, under pressure of these serious realities, changes. And so what we have proposed, having thought it all through, you see how it has been received around the world and how it will be supported. We will pursue this policy. I wish you all the best. Let's go and see your production facilities. [video shows interior shot of the production association with Gorbachev and Raisa being shown around] [end recording]

[Announcer] The workers and the management of the association told Mikhail Sergeyevich about the increase in the output of goods in short supply, about the implementation of the social program, and the prospects for the firm's economic ties.

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev, addressing one of the staff] What has changed in this production process as a result of this technology? [passage indistinct: this response, and another worker's contribution, are inaudible above the noise of the shop floor; video shows Gorbachev shaking hands with one of the workers and continuing his tour] [end recording]

TV Continues Factory Visit Coverage

LD2202001489 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's tour of the Ukraine is continuing. [passage omitted]

Every third Soviet television is produced at the Elektron association in Lvov. The workers and management of the enterprise told Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev about the stepping up of the output of goods and about the prospects for the firm's economic ties with partners abroad. Then yet another conversation took place with the working people of the enterprise. [video shows Gorbachev outside the factory, surrounded by a crowd of people]

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] And what is it like living in the town?

[Woman] Okay, all right.

[Gorbachev] And from a woman's point of view, from the point of view of the family?

[Woman] It varies.

[Gorbachev] And it varies here, too? What's the town like here? Do they help you? I mean the stores, the service sphere.

[Woman] Everything is all right. One thing that is bad is that they have made those doctors' cooperatives. You understand that there is a hospital for outpatients. There should not be cooperative treatment there, because people only get one life. If we go to the doctor's today, she does not want to see us. But if we go to the cooperative, that same professor receives us [words indistinct]. There is no need for that. [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] But we made the decision, we made the decision because when the reports of the type that you have mentioned started, when it turned out that in the first half of the day equipment for research was either standing idle or something in it was not working properly, that people were receiving little assistance in undergoing examinations, and suddenly after 1400 or 1500 everything was working fine, when closing time started to come round. This means that half a day is spent in making preparations just to operate in the conditions of the cooperative. And all the treatment offered within the framework of the government health service began to deteriorate. We decided to prohibit it.

[Woman] I have come across that myself.

[Gorbachev] We have banned them. In general, we have done this recently, in connection with the fact that there have been many complaints. The first serious complaints about co-operatives were made in Krasnoyarsk. If you listened to the broadcast at that time, people were already beginning to say things. For a number of months observations were made. And now it is clear that cooperatives are needed—in the service sphere, for doing repairs and in many other things that can be of help to others. But they should be organized in such a way, and the policy should be such, that it helps the people and does not empty their pockets.

[Woman] Thirty rubles a time.

[Gorbachev] Therefore, we have now made a series of decisions. Regarding what you are talking about, we have decided to ban it. Secondly, we have now decided the following. There are probably so many cooperatives now, so many different ones, that we in Moscow cannot see what forms they take and what they are for. It is even difficult to take into account. This is why the government has made this decision—and we have approved it in the party Central Committee—because this policy affects all of our people. The decision has been adopted that the tax policy with regard to cooperatives should be worked out locally, where they know which cooperatives need to be supported and which cooperatives really need to have taxes levied on them. First and foremost, the tax policy should not allow for a great difference in the payment for labor of workers who make the same goods, with even greater productivity, only because of some differences due to financial deductions; they could receive money that they do not deserve. For this reason the first experience is already being interpreted. We comprehend it and have made such decisions to put things right. I think that in principle, in principle, it is definite that your stand and mine should be a common one.

Cooperatives are needed. There is a lot which state enterprises cannot take on themselves. He who wishes to do a bit of extra work, who wants to work usefully for a couple of hours on the side—let's take for example your experts, who are well acquainted with technology, with electronics—they can work for 2 to 3 hours on contract to some kind of cooperative to earn some extra money repairing televisions for the population. What's wrong with that, if it is thought out properly? And if, for example, in the wake of this we notice the theft of spare parts of something, that would be a disgrace in general. Then that would have to be stopped immediately. That is, one has to keep track of everything. If things are to be done in a normal and a good way, then one should resolve things like this. But there are people who are disrupting this, as they wrote about someone in Moscow. (?You know, you have only just been to pay your party dues.) You probably all read about it. And it turns out, you know, what it did—it was middleman cooperative. It got an operation going somewhere that got hold of computers from abroad and marketed them here at a crazy price. That only goes to show that we have a great deal of talent, you understand that. [laughter] It must just be applied in a good way.

[passage omitted]

[Gorbachev] In spite of all the difficulties, we started right from the beginning of this 5-year plan to look for funds for medicine—we have allocated R6 billion—and on construction and on the wages for doctors to even them out, because doctors have...[Gorbachev changes thought] We have evened them out, and we are building many medical facilities so people can get that sort of examination. But I have been told that you have a good medical unit at the factory? A good one? You are satisfied?

[Voices] Yes.

[Gorbachev] Only you probably can't get a specialized examination here.

[Voices] No!

[Gorbachev] That's true? That's good. We are in favor of setting up in every labor collective, besides the main production facilities, a service sphere, a semiprepared food counter, a hairdresser, a good cafeteria, a recreation zone, a nursery school, and medical provision.

[Woman] We have a good management. We like our director very much.

[Gorbachev] I think that what you are saying will make him even more committed. [video shows people clapping] [end recording]

Gorbachev Speaks With Residents

LD2102225889 Mosow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] [Announcer] Here's another conversation which Mikhail Sergeyevich had with the residents of Lvov in the streets of the town:

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] It seems to people that the new political process and democracy are like something still very distant, but that's not so. It is a way of life; how to live; so people can see everything and discuss everything; so that they can get together, have a talk and ask: where are we going? Let's get down to resolving something. You have the bosses sitting over there; the people are talking here; and the bosses decide over there—but everything needs to be united. That's one more question, and of course there are the questions of culture, the development of interethnic relations. Have a look at all of this, and the main thing is—and it happens, but it shouldn't—when it's decided to take just one thing to resolve it. No, everything, everything must come to the fore...[interruption from crowd] so that it's necessary, otherwise.... Yes, everything needs to be...[changes thought]

Incidentally, they began attempts in the past, on more than one occasion, and also after Stalin's death, if one can put it that way—Nikita Sergeyevich [Khrushchev] got reforms underway, so to speak. They went awry, not everything happened. They began with the arrival of Leonid Ilyich [Brezhnev] at the March plenum! What was it worth? What a plenum it was, but what happened after it? The economy, and again things didn't take place, again, you understand....

[Man, interrupting] They didn't see it through.

[Gorbachev]...They didn't see it through, and they didn't see it through because they didn't want a great deal to develop, to unfurl, political processes, like the other; therefore it is necessary to understand everything.

Why did it turn out that in our history we did so much and at the same time we turned out, we encountered such obstacles? It's a difficult process; and to decide about the future, about the road we are taking, about a country such as ours with all of its peoples, to link up all of these interests so each and every one should feel that his interests, too, are being considered, is a most enormous responsibility. That is why one wants things moving faster, but all the time we need to hold each other back. Hold back in what respect? To thoroughly look into things, so as not to make silly mistakes just because we are in a hurry. But we shouldn't delay either, comrades, we shouldn't. Time, the time is running out, running out.

[Man] Some processes need to go faster....

[Gorbachev, interrupting]...faster. Well, look: In the economy we have resolved everything, including our review of the relationship to ownership. We have resolved the political question in such a way as to bring the people out, to proceed in a strong fashion, through the elections, through everything: the cadre policy. We have changed all of it so the collective should decide, so that the party organizations should decide, Communists themselves, the people, and so that they should not simply appoint the latest lord and master [barin] to manage (?the country).

[Man] Yes, but the departments even so....

[Second man, interrupting] But with departments there are always....

[Woman, interrupting] That's right, but often, while it's coming down from the top to the bottom, it gets distorted.

[Gorbachev] So what are you here, at the bottom, doing?

[Woman] We're trying, Mikhail Sergeyevich. [laughter] Word of honor!

[Gorbachev] Ah, comrades, comrades. This is the way to do it. I think that, as for the departments, they are now, to a considerable extent, losing their rights and, with the transition to reform, to financial autonomy and especially to leasing, to the second form of financial autonomy....

[Man, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] You know, all that. [passage indistinct] Specifically, do you know what is happening now? They've started to plan for next year. In 1988, people claimed to have been overwhelmed by the state order. They've started to plan. They've established the initial plan for the state order. It amounts to a proportion of 35 percent. What do you think? If there's anyone from the economic planners here, and he's honest, he'll say—the economic planners have started to insist—provide more state orders. Why?

[Man] Raw materials!

[Gorbachev] Now we've gotten to it!

[Man] Raw materials, of course. Because the ministry continues to hold you up, and there are still no stocks....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] No, it's already got them. Get in touch directly. Contacts have to be arranged. You must do the arranging: two enterprises. Well, not two, but sometimes there are 300-400 for every one. So come on, conclude contracts. And put a bit more life into it! There's none of that yet. That's the difficulty. So people shout for help from the departments. They have to be taught economic methods, not just milk at any price. Not just a tractor at any price. Not just a television at any price, and so on. But it should be a bit cheaper and of rather better quality. The costs are different and everything else is different, including the quality. How much hard work does it take to restructure a factory or just one workshop? And to radically alter the whole country? But what is the main thing? The main thing is restructuring of people's brains, mental restructuring. We've all been moulded.

[Man] It's necessary to work! Here! Now!

[Gorbachev] You understand? So, if only it was so easy to change everything. Who have I got here? Everyone's here. You know, the more we emancipate everyone and emancipate the situation, the more people who make their appearance will be interesting and lively—some of them can't even be restrained! [laughter] It happens. You see, you can't manage without that. [end recording]

TV Covers Talks With Residents

LD2202000489 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] This afternoon Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev laid flowers at the Vladimir Ilyich Lenin monument.

Subsequently a conversation with Lvov inhabitants took place on Lenin Prospekt.

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] How are you doing; how do you feel?

[Voices] OK, all is as it should be.

[Gorbachev] But tell me, nevertheless, is the atmosphere becoming more humane?

[Voices] Yes, yes it is. Of course.

[Gorbachev] That's the main thing.

[Man] The day is too short; one would like to do more.

[Gorbachev] You are right. I feel it, too. (?The years) begin to fly.

[Man] We are still young, so we would like to [words indistinct]

[Raisa] [passage indistinct]

[Gorbachev] (?Yes, everything is going fast.)

[Man] It is as though 1985 was only recent, and it's already 1989.

[Gorbachev] We are already being asked where are the results, and we say: Well, wait a bit. But (?they ask): Why is it that it takes you so long to get off the ground? That, generally speaking, is the essence of the conversations. Well, on the one hand, take this: ours is an enormous country, inhabited by so many people. Moreover, it isn't the same—well, if you take the United States—people of various nationalities live there, they come from all over the world. Of course, theirs is also a complex, complicated society. But our country has distinguishing features: the Ukraine, Georgia—I name them just as they come into my mind—Uzbekistan, any of the Baltic peoples. These are roots. People have been living there for centuries. Each people has its own culture, its own language.

Let me be blunt: We will not succeed in doing anything if we do not preserve the good things that have taken place in our Union and in the cooperation among peoples, and not just preserve, but if we fail to add to it, to improve it, to make for greater respect all round. After all, this is very important. Moreover, both big and small peoples need it too, all the more so.

Problems exist, too. I'd put it this way: If you take a serious look at everything, then economic problems are also required to be thoroughly worked through and tackled in earnest, and indeed in depth, so as not to exhaust the country. Let me tell you: We did make mistakes. Maybe some remain, maybe even now we did overlook something or other, or failed to spot it. But what is necessary is that there should be fewer of these mistakes.

Take the issues of democracy and glasnost. What, then, is socialism? A country of the working people, of workers, peasants, and working intelligentsia. But the way things turned out is that everything was in short supply. People would keep silent. Even when people were elected, they were unable really to represent the mood of their comrades, the people, and to say: This is what life

is like, this is what it shows us, and this must be taken into consideration when we resolve this, that, or the other. This sort of thing did not take place.

[Woman] We always made up funny stories.

[Gorbachev] These jokes always saved us. Humor did, especially the Ukrainian sense of humor, with a bit of spice to it. [laughter] You do have spices? I don't mean the ones we eat, I mean the spice (?of life).

Here, too, restructuring must be done, so that the soviets which the people, the working class, gave birth to should indeed be brought into play in this sense. We say that the slogan of all power to the soviets must be put forward again. It is, however, easy to put forward a slogan, but to understand it—how is it now going to be with the soviets if nothing changes in their financial situation, if union, republican and local enterprises fail to reckon with the local soviets altogether? Then nothing will change, even if you elect the very best people who make superhuman efforts to defend things.

Things must be thought through so that mechanisms exist to make every soviet begin to feel that the power and authority are vested in it.

We have now published that, based on the work of the Union and Union republics we have just discussed in the Politburo—the questions of republican financial autonomy. Our next stage concerns the problem of the local soviets, so that a similar provision is made for the local soviets as well. Union enterprises currently make no contributions to the local soviets. People live in the area, or the city where the enterprise is, but it does not always take part in the development of the municipal economy, or anything else that is necessary, such as issues of municipal services, or ecological issues. At times it makes decisions which harm the city. So we act through the regulations preparing this law, and Comrade Vorotnikov heads a commission of ours, the Politburo Commission.

[Man] Well, we wish him well.

[Gorbachev] He won't be able to cope on his own! [laughter]

[Man] We have already begun. Our enterprises charge 13,000 for [words indistinct].

[Gorbachev] This has already been passed, yes. It will be based on regulations. Each enterprise, local, republican or union, will have to make these contributions.

[Man] For the rayon, the city, and the oblast.

[Gorbachev] Well, the second stage of the reform will concern itself with these questions.

[Man] That's what we are waiting for.

[Gorbachev] It will soon come about, and there will be a law called: On Local Soviets and Local Economy.

Of course, we are tackling the questions of culture, of developing interethnic relations. Just look at all this! The main thing here is this: It turns out that you cannot just take one issue and tackle it. No. Everything has come all at once; everything must be tackled. Incidentally, beginnings were made in the past too, repeatedly so, already after Stalin, so to speak. Nikita Sergeyevich got reforms off the ground, as it were, but they were deflected and not everything turned out to be tenable.

Beginnings were made when Leonid Ilich came. The March plenum, what's it worth, what sort of plenum was that, and how did the economy fare after it? Things again proved to be untenable; again things failed to be brought to completion, you know. This happened also because they were not too eager to develop the political processes, to get them moving.

So, what with one thing and another, so everything must be understood. Why, indeed, did things turn out in our history in such a way that having done so much we nevertheless found ourselves facing such obstacles?

This is a difficult process. Making decisions concerning the future, concerning the path we are embarking upon, in a country such as ours, in a way that would combine all these interests of all the peoples, so that everyone can feel that his interests, too, are being taken into account, is truly the most enormous of responsibilities.

So, even though one wants the pace to be quicker, all the time we have to restrain one another in the sense that one must get to the bottom of things thoroughly, in the sense that we should not make foolish errors because of haste. Nor must we linger, however, comrades! One must not waste time. Time passes.

[Man] Some processes ought to proceed more quickly.

[Gorbachev] That is right.

[Woman] Mikhail Sergeyevich, we wish you more resolve [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] On what issues? Look, so far as the economy is concerned, we have tackled everything, including the ownership relations which we have revised. The political question we tackled in such a way as to involve people and to proceed boldly through the elections and everthing. The cadre policy must be abruptly turned around in its entirety, so that the collectives can decide, the party organizations can decide, so that Communists themselves, the people can decide, rather than appointing yet another boss to lord it over, as it were, you know.

[Woman] All that is correct, but (?at times) things passed from above to below get distorted.

[Gorbachev] You at the grassroots level, what are you doing, then?

[Woman] We are trying, Mikhail Sergeyevich [words indistinct] (?and truly we want to help you.)

[Gorbachev] Well, comrades, that's the way, that's the way. One more thing, comrades. Of course, in this situation in which not everything gets off the ground all at once, not everything turns out right at once, one needs resilience. Some people put the brake on things and deliver themselves of such pearls of wisdom for the benefit of the people and public opinion, that one begins to ponder why generations of people gave their strength, sweat, and blood, you know. But there are some people who are ready to throw everything to the winds as though they were dealing with pancakes which you can toss into the frying pan when you are still half awake.

One must not go about things in this way. These things exist too. Comrades, one must see all this and one must preserve our values. Destiny now is such that we are going through an epoch-making stage of our history, and we must not simply squander what is at our disposal, the people, the fate, or anything else, because all these things, difficult and good alike, are ours. So things must be thought through, and we must proceed consciously, together, as it were. We must keep up our spirits and we must feel the comradeship, the respect. It is necessary that these simple human things should again return to our life, so that the atmosphere becomes warmer in (?our big, multinational family). After all, this won't come all at once, but it will come. [end recording]

PRAVDA Reports Lvov Meetings

PM2202104689 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 89 Second Edition p 1

[Report by special correspondents V. Drozd, V. Kozhemyako, M. Odinets: "In a United Family: M.S. Gorbachev's Visit to Lvov"]

[Excerpts] Lvov—The visit by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to the Ukraine continues. On 21 February he arrived in Lvov. He was met at the airport by Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, first secretary of Lvov Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom, M.I. Kirey, chairman of the oblispolkom, and other officials and representatives of the public. [passage omitted]

The socioeconomic rebirth of the western Ukrainian lands, the growth of the prosperity of this region's inhabitants, and the strengthening of friendship between peoples—that is the result of the path traveled. The visible evidence of these changes lies in the renewed cities and villages and modern scientific institutes and industrial enterprises. M.S. Gorbachev's working day in Lvov began with a visit to one of them.

Workers from the enterprise offered Mikhail Sergeyevich bread and salt at the plant entrance. A conversation was struck up at once. The animated dialogue continued at the die stamping production lines, the assembly line for fourth-generation color televisions, and the exhibition of articles produced by the "Elektron" Science and Production Association. General director V. Rybynok provided explanations. [passage omitted]

Outside the assembly shop M.S. Gorbachev was again surrounded by a crowd of workers. Again there was an exchange of opinions and a frank discussion about all kinds of things—state affairs, production affairs, consumer affairs.

They say the buyer has become persnickety, demanding, Mikhail Sergeyevich observed. But which of you, on buying a costly item and taking it home, does not pay attention to the sometimes low quality: Here a television set does not work, there a radio receiver or a vacuum cleaner is broken.... It must be realized that today every family wants to live in modern conditions, and people want to have fine, good quality things around them. Many people are worried about the apartments now being built. Housing construction is still in turmoil largely because of the shortage of construction materials and miscalculations in planning. And it must also be said that at the moment restructuring in capital construction is going worst of all. This question must be resolved in the near future. The working class supports us here. We are living in complex and crucial times. Restructuring must proceed everywhere—all over the country and in every worker collective.

There were rejoinders to the effect that not all the goods that are in the stores, or, say, the services offered by cooperative workers are within the working person's price range. Even though there is no occasion to complain about wages. But, the speakers went on to explain, what are people with a far more modest income supposed to do? Mikhail Sergeyevich spoke in detail about taxation policy, which is now being improved and which will be oriented toward the protection of the working people's potential and the establishment of the principle of social justice.

A discussion of how people's social activeness has increased recently took a new turn when the comrades pushed forward a friendly, fair-haired woman.

"This is our candidate USSR people's deputy, fitter Nadezhda Nikolayevna Sushchenko," they said, introducing her to the Central Committee general secretary. Mikhail Sergeyevich asked how the nomination process went.

"I cannot remember people being so interested in the elections of people's deputies for a long time," Nadezhda Nikolayevna said. "I was elected to the rayon soviet before, but it was all somehow different, ordinary...."

"That was a matter of indifference, for form's sake," those present explained.

[Sushchenko] "I agree. But now, at a conference of the 'Elektron' labor collective, I found myself 13th on the list of nominations. I even had to oppose complex director Gennadiy Ivanovich German. I set forth my program: Improve women's working and living conditions, clean up the ecological environment, resolve the food supply problem through efficient work by our agro-industrial firm. And they supported me."

It is gratifying to see this activeness in people, Mikhail Sergeyevich observed. That is precisely what must be developed in every way today.

In the assembly shop M.S. Gorbachev stopped next to the young fitter Galina Karo. Mikhail Sergeyevich asked how she is mastering the speciality, whether she has been working at the enterprise for long, where she lives. Embarrassed, but still working "witchcraft" on a board that had arrived on the conveyor belt, Galya replied that at the moment she is sharing a place, but she recently gave birth to a son, and therefore hopes to receive an apartment soon.

Of course, there are still perceptible difficulties with housing at "Elektron," but the prospects are encouraging. According to the plans, everyone who was on the waiting list for apartments by the beginning of this 5-year plan will be able to move in by 1993. A realistic objective. Construction workers are increasing the volume of housing commissioned every year. Particular attention is paid to the construction of kindergartens and pioneer camps. The association's collective obtained a marked increase in food supplies by setting up their own agro-industrial firm. However, it was invariably stressed in conversations, we will only begin to live better if everyone without exception works more productively, because we can only share out what we have created by our labor. The construction workers in particular should pull themselves together, Mikhail Sergeyevich observed.

The meetings with the association's working people were packed with sincere conversations. The time came to part. The hosts wished Mikhail Sergeyevich a good journey and further success in his visit to the Ukrainian land.

In the afternoon M.S. Gorbachev had a meeting with the creative and scientific intelligentsia.

Summing up the results of the talk, M.S. Gorbachev said, in particular:

I am glad to have had this meeting. In general I attach great significance to the viewpoint, the stance of the intelligentsia. At the present stage, under the conditions of profound restructuring in all spheres of our society's life, it is very important for us to know your position.

In our present policy two very significant features must be present without fail: It must be based on scientific data, scientific prediction; and, second, it must contain a spiritual and moral element. Therefore we particularly value the contribution to restructuring by our scientific intelligentsia, which is responsible for fundamental discoveries, and has accumulated a mighty potential for improving technologies in the leading sectors.

We value highly the contribution of the creative intelligentsia to the renewal of our society. They appeal to people's conscience, their memory, their national and patriotic self-awareness; they arouse their best feelings, move people's hearts and arouse their interest in their neighbors, teaching people to put common interests above their own. You may be a highly educated person, but unless you have spiritual sensitivity, sincerity, and commitment to the common cause, people will not give their hearts to you.

We should return to society, where the main thing is the individual. And here there is very wide scope for the work of the creative intelligentsia. We welcome the fact that today the intellect and labor of the worker merges in a single stream with the creativity of the artist and writer. The support of the people's creative forces is a mighty instrument for the party in transforming society's production and spiritual forces. And where party committees and the public act in this direction, things go smoothly. And, conversely, where contacts with the creative and scientific intelligentsia are confined to the old patterns and habits, all kinds of conjectures spring up, and ill-considered actions are committed.

In general, the following conclusion can be drawn from today's discussion: Restructuring creates enormous opportunities for ensuring that all links and relationships within society and all the creative work of politics, science, culture, and education form a single alloy and serve society, whose highest goal is the good of each individual.

M.S. Gorbachev was accompanied by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; V.S. Shevchenko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.A. Masol, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; and Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, first secretary of Lvov party obkom.

In the evening M.S. Gorbachev returned to Kiev.

TASS Sums Up Gorbachev Tour

LD2102223989 Moscow TASS in English 2235 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Lvov February 21 TASS—"We have no other goal but taking greater care of the working people," Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told city residents who came to welcome him at Lvov airport where he arrived in the morning from the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

The Soviet leader is concluding his second day in the Soviet republic.

"This is a very crucial time," Gorbachev said. "Probably, the most difficult period. The entire country, all production spheres are changing to new methods of economic management.

A political reform is unfolding on a large scale and an election campaign is under way. In brief, we have embarked on a wide road."

"But perestroyka means hard work, things are not that easy. We all have got used to a certain way of life, to a certain style and pace of work," the Soviet leader went on to say.

"This style has been shaped for years, for decades. Now we have decided to move on to new forms both of life and the organisation of work.

This task is not simple. To fulfil it there is a need for a true revolution in our own mentality. This is the most important thing," Gorbachev remarked.

Failings and losses were still occurring, the Soviet leader said. "But the perestroyka drive is developing. The working class not only vested us with trust, but lent their helping hand to perestroyka.

"The working class's support gives us strength and confidence," Gorbachev emphasised. "When you don't feel support from society in your undertaking, do not attempt to take it up. This is a risky business."

"The workers support us, prompt us and correct us, if need be," the Soviet leader pointed out. "Many correct, business-like suggestions were made at the recent meeting with workers in Moscow. We understand them because we have no goal other than taking greater care of the working class, of the working people."

The Soviet leader began his tour of Lvov, a large industrial, scientific and cultural centre in the Ukraine, with a visit to the production amalgamation Elektron which specialises in the manufacture of household electronic appliances.

Talking with workers, Gorbachev asked them about the conditions of work and organisation of social and consumer services.

"At present," he said, "all work collectives should master cost-accounting and self-financing principles and resolve issues of recreation and life by themselves."

That was not easy to achieve, he warned, noting that "the entire country should be restructured in this way. It is necessary to march only forward. This should be the case in each work collective, research institute, collective farm or construction project."

Gorbachev asked his interlocutors whether they approve the changes in the country. They said that they do.

"It is the working class that has backed perestroyka and is shouldering it," the Soviet leader said.

"Not everything is going on smoothly, but the workers are sticking to the course taken.

"Through perestroyka, we ought to create a new country, new forms of life, to make it more humane so that every person improves his spirits. We will do everything in a socialist way. We are for socialism. This is a system of workers, a system for peasants, for all working people."

Speaking on Soviet foreign policy, Gorbachev remarked that "it is directed at securing that people trust people, country trust country and that problems of nuclear threat and ecology be handled collectively."

Upon completing his tour of the Elektron amalgamation, Gorbachev laid flowers to the monument to Vladimir I. Lenin, founder of the Soviet Communist Party and the state.

During a conversation with citizens there, the Soviet leader discussed matters of perestroyka and the development of democracy in the country.

Speaking about the contribution of each constituent republic to the common cause of perestroyka, Gorbachev said that any nation and ethnic group in the Soviet Union "has its own traditions, its language, its history, and we must preserve all good features that have shaped up in the country and in cooperation between Soviet peoples".

On democracy and glasnost, Gorbachev said:

"Our country is a country of socialism, of working people, workers, peasants, the working intelligentsia, but it lacked democracy.

"People kept silent. Even deputies could not express what their comrades really felt, could not say what life really was. Now we want this all to be taken into account."

"We have again advanced the slogan 'All Power to the Soviets,'" Gorbachev went on.

"This means that we should find such mechanisms that would allow each Soviet to feel its strength, its power."

"Some people think political processes and democracy are something far away from them, but this is our common reality, this is already our mode of life," the Soviet leader said.

He also said the country has resolved many things in the economy, including its attitude to property.

"The political issue has been solved in such a way as to stir people's activeness, particularly through democratic elections.

"The personnel policy had to be improved so that working people, party organisations, rank-and-file Communists, all people resolved all issues themselves, instead of simply having their chiefs appointed from above," Gorbachev said.

"Perestroyka is beginning to bring to the forefront talented people, they're growing stronger. The more emancipation in the country, the more such people, interesting and active, appear.

"This is why it is only through perestroyka that we can renew personnel. Let democracy and people put things in their places. We must think of the country, of the common good," the Soviet leader said.

After seeing the central part of the city Gorbachev visited the Museum of Ukrainian Art where he met with representatives of intelligentsia. Speakers at the meeting pointed out that intellectuals actively supported perestroyka.

Summing up the results of the conversation, Gorbachev said that he attached much importance to the viewpoint and the stand assumed by intellectuals. "True politics must always contain two very important factors: first, they should be based on scientific information, scientific forecasts. Second, they should have a cultural, moral element. This is why we specially appreciate a contribution made to perestroyka by our scientists whose work permitted to made fundamental discoveries, who have accumulated a powerful potential for improving technologies in the leading industries".

"We must return to society where human personality is the most important thing. Intellectuals could do a great deal in this sphere. Reliance on the creative forces of people is a powerful instrument of the party in the transformation of productive and cultural forces of society", Gorbachev pointed out.

"Perestroyka creates enormous opportunities for all the links and relations in our society, all the cooperation of politics, science, culture and education to serve society whose supreme interest is the wellbeing of every individual", the Soviet leader said in conclusion.

At night Gorbachev returned to Kiev.

Gorbachev Arrives in Donetsk From Kiev 22 Feb

LD2202093389 Moscow TASS in English 0929 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Donetsk February 22 TASS—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Donetsk from Kiev today. He is accompanied by member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee's first Secretary Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, President of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Valentina Shevchenko, chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers Vitaliy Masol.

At the airport Mikhail Gorbachev was met by First Secretary of the Donetsk Regional Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party Anatoliy Vinnik and public representatives.

[Moscow TASS in English at 0930 GMT on 22 February carried the following item:

"Donetsk February 22 TASS - Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who arrived in Donetsk on Wednesday, laid flowers to the monument to Vladimir Lenin where he also had his first meetings with the people of Donetsk."]

Election 'Battle' Commences at Moscow Meeting

PM2002123389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by S. Artyukhov under the rubric "Political Accent": "Five Names on the Ballot Paper"]

[Text] It was 0400 hours on Saturday [18 February] morning before the delegates of the okrug election meeting in Tushinskiy No 25 electoral okrug made their decision, which was greeted by thunderous applause not only in the hall but also on the street, where hundreds of inhabitants of the capital's Tushinskiy and Zelenogradskiy Rayons had spent 12 hours following events in the "Red October" Palace of Culture.

The inhabitants of Zelinogradskiy and Tushinskiy Rayons put forward seven people as USSR candidate people's deputies. S. Aryutyunov, diretor of a machine building plant; T. Gdlyan, senior investigator for very important cases under the USSR General Prosecutor; B. Yeltsin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosstroy; A. Napolnov, general director of the "Krasnyy Oktyabr" Production Association named for Chernyshev; T. Slesareva, chief of the rayon people's education department methodological office; G. Sokolovskiy, chief designer at the "Vympel" plant, and N. Cherepov, industrial enterprise laboratory chief.

B. Yeltsin withdrew his candidacy at the meeting, having decided to run in another okrug. Then T. Slesareva also decided to withdraw. Five remained. Battle commenced.

Many people proposed from the outset that all the contenders be approved as candidate deputies, so that every inhabitant of the rayon, and not only the meeting participants, might have a free choice. It was proposed dozens of times that the question should be put to a vote, but the vote did not come. Passions continued to rise. The candidates presented their election platforms and answered written and verbal questions, and the debate got under way. Time passed.

To a direct question from the audience about whether they agreed with the proposal that all five should continue the election struggle, T. Gdlyan, N. Cherepov, and S. Arutyunov replied that they considered it the only democratic solution. A. Napolnov and G. Sokolovskiy declined to answer.

And when the decisive moment came, when everyone had spoken and it was time to decide, the meeting determined the voting procedure on the basis of the Law on Elections.

It was decided to vote for all five. A count of the votes showed that the majority was in favor of all the candidates' continuing the struggle.

The entire audience, all the journalists present at the meeting, and everyone waiting on the street welcomed the decision.

'More Democratic' Election Procedure Discussed

PM2102123789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[Unnamed TASS correspondent interview with Ye.M. Koveshnikov, chief of the Central Electoral Commission Juridical Group, under the rubric "Election of USSR People's Deputies": "The Law Guarantees"; date and place of interview not specified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The incipient reform of the political system in our country is also making substantial amendments to the procedure for electing USSR people's deputies. It has become more democratic. Nonetheless some new elements in it are provoking questions that people are addressing to the Central Electoral Commission. A TASS correspondent asked Ye.M. Koveshnikov, chief of the Central Electoral Commission Juridical Group, to answer them.

[TASS correspondent] Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich, many letter writers ask who is preparing the ballot papers and how they differ from those used previously. The old ballot papers, A. Mikhaylichenko from Kremenchug writes, don't allow one to form an objective judgment of the candidate.

[Koveshnikov] The form and text of the ballot paper for elections of USSR people's deputies have been established by the Central Electoral Commission and the okrug electoral commission respectively. The latter manufactures ballot papers and supplies them to district electoral commissions. The ballot paper includes in alphabetical order the surname, name, and patronymic of all the candidates that have been registered. The fact that the ballot paper indicates the candidate's post (occupation), place of work, and residence is new.

[TASS correspondent] Will the Agitators' Institute operate now? I. Popov from Chelyabinsk writes that guarantees should have been provided against coercion to vote, one form of which is frequent visits to a voter by agitators on voting day and "invitations" to vote. Such "invitations" constitute agitation on election day, which is prohibited by law.

[Koveshnikov] The law guarantees all citizens of the USSR the opportunity to freely and comprehensively discuss a candidate deputy's political, business, and personal qualities and also the right to agitate for and against candidates at meetings, in the press, on television, and on the radio. Various forms of agitation are envisaged. Action groups, support groups, and, of course, agitators can operate. It is the duty of electoral commissions to provide furnished premises for meetings and rallies. But Comrade Popov is right here: The law does prohibit agitation on election day. In the past agitators did go round apartments on voting day and issue voters with invitations. We don't recommend doing this now. But postcards can be distributed the day before so that people know the time and place of voting.

[TASS correspondent] I think that the question from S. Yushkov, a voter from Kuybyshev, develops the previous topic. He asks whether voters will be sent invitation cards as in previous years. Is the practice of marking them with voters' electoral roll registration numbers permissible?

[Koveshnikov] Yes, cards will be distributed. There is nothing illegal in that. But I would not put numbers on them....

[TASS correspondent] We spent so long persuading our voters of unanimity in elections that many of them would now like to know what in fact lurks behind the 99.9 figure. Leningrader V. Rozov, for instance, asks whether representatives of labor collectives will be admitted to the session of the electoral commissions when the votes are counted.

[Koveshnikov] Article 7 of the Law on Elections says outright that representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, and meetings of voters, agents, and also press, television, and radio representatives are entitled to attend electoral commission sessions, including those when votes are counted in electoral districts, the results of okrug elections determined, and the overall election results are summed up. Article 13 of the law says that criminal or administrative proceedings are to be instituted against people who prevent a citizen of the USSR by means of violence, deception, threats, or any other means from freely exercising his right to elect and be elected a USSR's people's deputy and carrying out election agitation, and also against members of electoral commissions and officials in state and public bodies who forge election documents, deliberately make a wrong count of votes, and tolerate other violations of the Law on Elections. Proceedings are also instituted against people who publish or otherwise circulate false information about a candidate deputy.

[TASS correspondent] Voters ask who should notify them about coming meetings with candidates and about the date and place of the voting.

[Koveshnikov] In accordance with the Law on the Election of USSR People's Deputies, okrug electoral commissions together with labor collectives, public organizations, and soviet presidiums—and, where they don't exist, soviet ispolkoms—organize meetings between candidates and voters. They are held in collectives and in places of residence both at meetings and other forms of gathering convenient for the voters. Voters are told of the date and place of the conferences and meetings in advance and district electoral commissions notify voters of the place and time for the voting no later than 10 days before the election. This time the elections of people's deputies from the okrugs will be held 26 March from 0700 to 2000 hours local time.

In electoral districts based on ships at sea on election day, military units, polar stations, remote and inaccessible areas, and also Soviet establishments abroad, district electoral commissions can proclaim the voting closed at any time if all the voters on the electoral roll have voted.

Belorussian 'Informal' Groups Gather in Minsk

PM2202110789 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 89 First Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent Colonel A. Smolyanko: "They Came Out for Unification; Reportage from Meeting in Minsk"]

[Text] The "Dinamo" stadium bowl accommodated over 40,000 citizens who had been summoned here by an announcement distributed the previous day throughout the city by members of the organizational committee of "Resurrection," the Belorussian People's Front for restructuring, and other informal associations. Many people carried signs, posters, and placards reading "independence for Belorussia," "VECHERNIY MINSK is the mouthpiece of the Vendee" [reference to peasant royalist forces opposing the French revolution], "not a single voice of the nomenklatura," and others. Everywhere there were the flags of the USSR, the Belorussian SSR, and other republics. But most of all there were white, red, and white flags.

Just a few minutes remained before the start of the meeting, and I asked an extravagantly dressed young man why he was holding this flag.

"I only talk with Belorussians," he snapped categorically.

When I started talking with him in his native Belorussian language, he immediately started to explain, inconsistently, that this symbol dates back from time immemorial and that this flag was at the battle of Grunwald. And my interlocutor was somewhat surprised to learn that the white, red, and white flag was the flag of the Belorussian Central Council on the territory of our republic occupied by the fascists, of an SS brigade and the police and profascist "Belorussian Youth League."

The question of symbolism is a serious one, but as we can see some people's information is superficial and one-sided.

The meeting was opened by Gorispolkom Chairman V. Mikhasev. He called those assembled to an open dialogue without excessive emotions or arrogance, to constructiveness, and a high standard of debate. Z. Pozdnyak, senior scientific staffer at the Belorussian Academy of Sciences History Institute, who was given the floor, announced the questions submitted for discussion by the meeting's participants. They were wide-ranging: the sociopolitical and economic situation in the republic, ecology, democratization and glasnost, language and culture.

The speakers spoke most of all of the completed nomination and registration of candidate people's deputies of the USSR. The meeting's organizers came with their own extensive election platform, whose main principle was: Plants for the workers, land for the peasants, and power for the people.

A number of proposals were of a specific nature. For instance, regarding the creation of a special commission of deputies designed to analyze the reasons for the regular shortage of goods, to resolve acute social problems, and to eliminate the ecological, psychological, and medical consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES.

The election platform does, however, contain many proposals which are not only controversial but also farfetched and unjustifiably categorical, demanding, for instance, the repeal of some articles of the Law on Elections of USSR People's Deputies.

Some speakers did not want to see positive advances in the republic's economy and, through verbal acrobatics, tried to divert the talk from specific matters.

The ecology was a sore subject. Chief sanitation officer V. Buryak, veterinarian M. Belman, and M. Obrazov, specialist at the Belorussian SSR State Committee for Nature Conservation, spoke of it with alarm. It was noted that rivers and lakes are being polluted and the land is becoming parched as a result of ill-considered reclamation in some regions of the republic. In the speakers' opinion, part of the republic's territory has been contaminated by radio nuclides as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl AES and the process of the environment's pollution has not been halted. Even specialists from the republic could not, unfortunately, prove fully and reliably and, most importantly, convincingly, that there is no danger, answer all the questions put by the speakers, or put forward their own program for struggling for the cleanliness of the environment.

I do not want to say that everything proceeded evenly and smoothly. There was extremist shouting from the seats and there were attempts to grab the microphone. But the overwhelming majority—and that is the main thing—expressed themselves firmly in favor of the unification of all the republic's forces in the struggle for the assertion and irreversibility of restructuring.

After the meeting I asked several representatives of the city's soviet and party organs to assess the results of the meeting, but I received a polite refusal.

On the other hand members of the organizational committee for the creation of the Belorussian People's Front were eager to comment. I asked one of them, Z. Pozdnyak:

"Did your meeting achieve its purpose?"

"I believe it did. There was a large amount of talk which showed people's unity and mutual understanding in resolving the urgent problems of restructuring."

"Do you see prospects for creating the People's Front?"

"Prospects do exist and stem from life itself, from restructuring."

Authorities Attend; Proposals Passed

LD2102181789 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Minsk February 21 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Aleksandr Kryzhanovskiy:

Thirty thousand people have turned out for a meeting in the capital of Belorussia. This is, apparently, the first such "get-together" of the local authorities with informal organizations of the republic. It was sponsored by the organizational committee of the Belorussian People's Front and the Confederation of Informal Associations of the Republic. The cost of renting the central stadium, where the meeting took place, was assumed by the Minsk City Council.

The meeting was opened by Vladimir Mikhasevich, chairman of the city council. Anyone was free to take over the microphone after him to express his view on the subjects of the current debate: democratization of the political system, ecological situation, economic reform and social development, cultural construction in the republic.

Research Economist Aleksandr Zhuravlev, for instance, backed the idea of regional cost-accounting, came out for the priority development of science-intensive production as it is done in such countries as Japan, Hungary or Finland, which have scarce raw materials resources.

Uuriy Khodyko, doctor of physics and mathematics, spoke of the need to provide peasants with land plots on the basis of termless rent and right of inheriting the contract. Furthermore, he believes that the time had come to admit that the moral values, professed by the church, enrich the individual and are values common to all mankind.

These and certain other proposals have been reflected in the resolutions passed after many-hours-long deliberations. One of these resolutions, for example, demands a moratorium on the programme of building atomic power plants and other ecologically unsafe enterprises in Belorussia. Another resolution points to the need of observing scrupulously the elections law so as to ensure free electioneering to all the nominated candidates, no matter what organizations they represent. And still another resolution censures the work of district election commissions in constituencies where only one candidate to the country's supreme legislature was registered.

The Belorussian writer Vasily Yakovenko said in his speech that the meeting had shown that all the forces, representing the people of Belorussia, pursue the same goals, are interested in equal measure in the effective solution of key problems. He pointed out that socialist pluralism of views could be realised only in such broad and frank discussions.

Belorussian Minister on End to Radio 'Jamming'

LD1502171489 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belorussian 3 Feb 89 p 3

["No Obstacles in the Ether"]

[Text] In connection with the warming-up of international relations, the democratization of our society, and the development of glasnost, jamming of Western radio broadcasts—Deutsche Welle, Voice of Israel, Radio Liberty, and others—was stopped recently. Artificial obstacles do not pack the ether any longer. ZVYAZDA correspondent A. Usenya met with I. Grytsyuk, Belorussian SSR minister of communications, and questioned him on what is to become of the jamming facilities.

Question: Ivan Mikhaylovich, there were probably radio stations in our republic as well, which "packed" the ether with the purpose of stopping information from the West reaching Soviet listeners.

Answer: Indeed, on the territory of Belorussia 5 radio centers have stopped functioning and 89 transmitters have been released which, figuratively speaking, have been ensuring the ideological defense of the Republic and of the country as a whole.

Question: What is to become of these technical facilities?

Answer: Approximately 90 percent of the transmitters will be used for relaying republican and central programs within the shortwave range. Obviously, listeners will see changes for the better, as the quality of reception of radio programs will improve.

The antennas also will be used more effectively. In 2-3 years we intend to put into operation equipment of the "Altay" system for improving radio-telephonic communications.

Question: With the closing of the jamming facilities, a certain number of people obviously have found themselves without jobs. Where are they going to work?

Answer: Yes, it has released 100 persons. In the main, they are engineers and technicians. However, they have not become "unemployed." Quite the contrary. The stopping of jamming helped us a little with our cadre problems. All of them have been taken on by communication organizations.

Ukraine Commission on Stalin Purges Meets

LD2102214789 Kiev in English to North America 0030 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Commission for the rights and interests for the rehabilitated victims of Stalin's purges, which took place in Ukraine in the thirties, forties, and early fifties, has held its first meeting. It is envisaged to build monuments to the reappraisal of victims, and one of them will be erected in Kiev.

Ukrainian Language Society Meeting Outlines Goals

AU2102112389 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 14 Feb 89 p 3

[RATAU report: "A Ukrainian Language Society Has Been Founded"; for further reportage on the society's constituent conference, see the 14 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, p 59, and the 15 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp 60-61]

[Text]**The goals of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Language Society are: to help to preserve and develop the Ukrainian language and to establish it in all spheres of public life; to look after and to develop the national culture and traditions of the Ukrainian people; to shape the national awareness and historical memory of citizens; to help to overcome national nihilism and achieve the harmonious development of interethnic relations. The society's constituent conference was held in Kiev on 11-12 February.**

"Attention to culture and the rebirth of the language," writer and member of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences A.T. Gonchar said in inaugurating the conference, "is in full conformity with the new policy proclaimed by the 27th CPSU Congress and developed by the 19th party conference. The democratization and renewal of society have offered great opportunities for developing all peoples in the country. This should inspire us, and should call for concrete deeds. Dynamic measures and patient, prolonged, but absolutely effective work are essential to improve and normalize the language situation in the Ukraine.

"The official status of the Ukrainian language should draw effective strength from legislation, from the constitution. It should draw this strength not in order to counterpose Ukrainian to any other language. Deep respect for Russian, for the language of every people, has been traditional among us since the times of Shevchenko and Franko. The official state statute is essential for the Ukrainian language to ensure its right to live in all spheres and at all levels. We remember the examples from those Leninist times when we experienced the joy of pure interethnic unity, when we were authentic internationalists. And we want to be authentic internationalists. Society should wake up and strengthen in man the feeling of pride in one's people, in the way their creative genius is uniquely displayed in the language whose beauty, melodiousness, humor, exceptional neatness and poeticalness have been recognized all over the civilized world."

A report on the society's objectives was delivered by member of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences V.M. Rusanovskiy. Yu.A. Ogulchanskiy made a report on the society's statutes and amendments to it.

For the Ukrainian people the Ukrainian language, the participants in the conference said, is a great heritage and a priceless treasure, is the basis of their spiritual potential and culture. The struggle for the preservation and development of the Ukrainian language is the defense of the very existence of the Ukrainian people, of their national identity, their national sovereignty, and the defense of national equality among all peoples of the Soviet Union, and of the purity of the Leninist ideas of federalism, and of socialist ideals. We, the speakers emphasized, fully back the CPSU policy aimed at perfecting and harmonizing nationality relations in our state, and approve the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee decision to intensify internationalist and patriotic education. Permanent commissions of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet have contributed toward this activity by forming a working group to draft amendments to the Ukrainian SSR Constitution, the part granting the Ukrainian language the status of official state language, and the Ukrainian SSR law on the language.

The convening of the conference, it was noted, clearly attested to the growing public interest in enhancing the republic's Ukrainian and entire multilingual socialist culture, and in increasing its role in the ideological and moral education of the population. More attention has now been paid in the republic to improvements in interethnic relations and the patriotic and internationalist education of the population. The main efforts have been concentrated on creating among people responsibility for the successful accomplishment of the tasks set by the party in the interests of restructuring all spheres of our multinational state. The ideas that relations among socialist nations and nationalities were problem-free in their nature, and a nihilist attitude to the national heritage are being overcome, and experience is being accumulated in defending internationalist values under the conditions of democracy and glasnost. In the last 2 years, more than 200 Ukrainian-language schools and kindergartens have opened. Significantly more time has been allotted to the study of the Ukrainian language at schools, and conditions have been provided to make and dub films in Ukrainian. The preparations for the 175th anniversary of the birth of T.G. Shevchenko are propitious for propagating the achievements of Ukrainian culture in its links with fraternal cultures of the USSR peoples and the worldwide development of art.

However, it was emphasized at the conference, the pace, scale, and quality of the work done still have not fully

met the requirements presented by restructuring, socialist renewal, further improvements in interethnic relations, and the developing process of democratization. It is essential to significantly raise the level of teaching and learning the Ukrainian language in children's preschool establishments, and in secondary and higher schools, as well as to greatly expand the network of Ukrainian-language schools and kindergartens. The speakers noted delays in preparing and publishing Ukrainian-language visual aids, motion picture and video films for training purposes, recorded materials, and publications on teaching methods. Appropriate conditions for mastering the Ukrainian language by all citizens permanently living in the republic are still being provided too slowly. Dictionaries, phrase books, and records are in short supply. The efforts made by the Ukrainian Culture Fund to propagate the achievements of Ukrainian songs, advanced folk customs and ceremonies, and to engage the younger generation in local lore and folklore have not met with adequate support.

The society is expected to form an integral part of the general efforts to expand the sphere in which the Ukrainian language is being used, and to harmonize interethnic relations, the speakers said. The point is in particular to conduct wide and purposeful work in various groups of the population, to actively propagate Ukrainian and other national languages, as well as Russian as the language of interethnic communication in the USSR, and to propagate national folklore, literature, and art.

It was emphasized at the conference that, in carrying out its activity in conformity with the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR Constitutions, and with Soviet law, the society favored democracy in language policy, free enjoyment of the right to use one's own language by all nationalities in the Ukraine, favorable conditions for Ukrainians living in other republics of our country to develop their national culture, and the increased prestige and importance of the Ukrainian language and culture in the countries in which Ukrainians live. The society will by all means contribute toward the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society, and toward consolidating the Leninist nationality policy.

Doctor of Philological Sciences A.A. Buryachok delivered a report on contradictory issues in the new edition of the "Ukrainian Orthography," and Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences L.M. Ivanenko, on "The Ukrainian Language and Computerizing Problems."

The constituent conference approved the statutes of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Language Society, adopted a resolution and an appeal.

The governing bodies of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Language Society were elected. Poet Dmitro Pavlychko, holder of a Ukrainian SSR T.G. Shevchenko prize, was elected chairman.

The constituent conference was addressed by Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Committee Politburo member and secretary; and by M.A. Orlik, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman. Responsible officials of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Council of Ministers, obkoms, and Kiev Gorkom participated in the conference proceedings.

Readers' Responses to Kiev Writers' Meeting

AU1702115189 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 11 Feb 89 p 1

[Editorial: " 'Democracy, but Not Demagogy'—PRAVDA UKRAINY Readers Write"]

[Excerpts] Presently we are all attending a great school of democracy. Classes about glasnost have begun all over the country, and the growing number of chances available for every citizen to directly participate in political life enhance interest in its lessons. The election of USSR people's deputies, planned for 26 March, has opened an authentic university of democracy.

Headed by the party, restructuring has set in motion the enormous forces of the people. A wide range of opinions, attitudes, and assessments has come to light. All this is essential in order to draw the line more exactly and to rally forces for united actions aimed at developing our homeland along the path of socialist renewal.

This is precisely the path which the working people, in their overwhelming majority, regard as the only acceptable and correct one. They turn down those who would like to cast doubts on this path, or who incite actions that lead us astray and split our unity. Letters, telephone calls, and cables that our newspaper's editorial board presently receive are also evidence of this.

What urged many people to write was the meeting of Kiev men of letters that was held on 31 January and that approved the statutes of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Restructuring.

"The processes brought about by restructuring," S.L. Degtyar writes from Brovary, Kiev Oblast, "are comprehended and supported by all people. Deep political reform and people's sovereignty mark the main direction of our society's renewal. However, on the path of renewal there emerge elements that, having obtained a free hand, bring forward 'their own' programs disguised in a way adjusted to restructuring which serve their self-seeking purposes. This is an impediment to restructuring because it leads away from it, causes instability, nervousness, distrust in the future, and sometimes even hostility....

"I watched the television report on the meeting at which the attempt was made to launch a 'people's movement'. It has left a bitter, persisting sensation in our soul. The proposed program and the very circumstances under which the program was concocted emitted a foul 'smell' indeed. Do these adults, who rank themselves among the intelligentsia, not see where self-styled leaders lead them? Whatever the disguise of the so-called 'people's

movement', egoism, irresponsibility, and confrontation with the law and the rule of the simply protrude from every crack in this 'movement.'"

Here is the text of a cable received from Donetsk Oblast:

"The collective of the mechanized integrated process longshoremen's team in Mariupol seaport protests against the statements made by some persons belonging to the initiative group of Kiev writers intended to undermine confidence in the party and the soviets of people's deputies, to foment nationalist sentiments and distrust in restructuring. What we need is democracy, and not demagogy. [signed] Team leader Chuyenko." [passage omitted]

In our society, man's responsibility for his acts is a condition necessary for his freedom. Neither freedom nor democracy can exist without responsibility, and democracy is neither a kind of play, nor is it a chance to ride on the crest of its wave.

In this case, it is essential to take as guidance the interests of socialism, the interests of the cause. Otherwise this cause may suffer grave damage, and restructuring may misfire.

Important in this case is the ability to separate grain from cockle, to distinguish searching from ambition, and the sound aspiration to speed up restructuring from adventurous claims. It is important to advance arm-in-arm and to resist both desertions and accelerations which hinder the firm and confident progress.

The democratization of public and political life has revealed, and will reveal even more new reserves in Soviet society. It must not be used to the people's detriment; it must serve socialism.

New Moldavian Interior Minister Interviewed

LD2102234689 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Kishinev February 21 TASS—By TASS correspondent Vladimir Novosadyuk:

A new minister of internal affairs of Moldavia, a Soviet republic in the South-Western part of the USSR, has been announced. He is Vladimir Voronin, a 47-year old Moldavian, former party functionary. The minister realizes that he is in for a new and far from easy job. And he admitted as much in his first interview to a TASS correspondent.

I know that Moldavia has many problems, that it has, I regret to say so, the highest crime rate in the country, Vladimir Voronin said. I also realize the extraordinarity of my appointment. After all this is the first time that the republic's ministry of internal affairs will be headed by a man who is not a professional jurist.

A political leader at the head of a law enforcement body is no exception in the USSR. There are both pros and cons to such an appointment. Time will show which of them will prevail. In the meantime, the new minister, who is known in the republic as a consistent advocate of democratization and openness, believes that a considerate attitude to people, constant readiness to defend their interests, and prompt responsiveness should become the norm of behavior for every representative of internal affairs organs.

Vladimir Voronin, who held several responsible posts in the Moldavian Communist Party (his last job was secretary of the party organization of Bendery), has earned a good reputation in the republic. And this is not only due to his respectful attitude to the ordinary people, but his persistance in achieving the set goals. "It is true that I always strive to achieve what I plan", Voronin admitted. "But I do not foist my will on others. My method is persuasion. But if a decision is taken, it must be fulfilled. Applicably to my new job, this means that every man, from rank-and-file militiaman to the minister, must do his work honestly and with a high sense of responsibility".

"We are now advancing towards a law-governed state", Voronin continued. "But the Soviet Union will not become such a state overnight. It is necessary to democratize the society, to reshape man's psychology. This is why I believe educational work amidst the population is the most important task of the ministry of internal affairs. We must all learn to conduct discussions in a civilized way, to communicate in a civilized manner. It is high time to go over from the democracy of meetings to the democracy of deeds. The brunt of this work should not be here, in the capital, but in district and outlying urban internal affairs departments, that is in the very midst of the people".

It was not 9 a.m. yet, but the minister's secretary already began to peep into his office nervously...it was apparently time to say goodbye. The new head of the Moldavian Ministry of Internal Affairs was about to start his first work day.

Lithuanian Party Plenum Elects Secretary

LD2102195789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1837 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Vilnius, 21 Feb (TASS)—The work of party organizations in Lithuania to consolidate the public to solve the tasks of restructuring was discussed by participants in a plenum of the Central Committee of the republic's Communist Party which was held in Vilnius today. A report was delivered at it by Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Central Committee.

Implementing the decisions of the 19th conference of Soviet communists, Lithuania has achieved a fair amount in a comparatively short time. The concept has already been worked out for the economic independence of the republic, and important steps have been taken to improve the ecological situation. The region's past is being evaluated more objectively.

The ideas of renewal, it was indicated at the plenum, have aroused civil activity among the inhabitants of Lithuania. Informal associations have been formed: the Lithuanian movement for restructuring, Sajudis, the socialist movement for restructuring, unity, the greens' movement, and youth ecology clubs. Amateur organizations have made no small positive contribution to solving questions of social equality, the economy, the fight against bureaucracy, and raising the level of culture.

Unfortunately, noted the speakers, extreme standpoints have gradually started to dominate the activity of Sajudis. Some of its members are turning away from the path of promoting restructuring to antisocialist demands for the withdrawal of the republic from the composition of the USSR.

A situation has arisen which is evidence of the threat that a considerable part of society can be split on national grounds and that mutual confrontation might result. This must not be tolerated, for this destroys the very foundation of restructuring and hampers solving essential social, economic, and cultural tasks.

Criticism of the republican press, which often lags behind the dynamics of events or timidly adheres to the tactics of neutrality, was voiced at the plenum.

In this complex moment the Communist Party and Lithuanian Government are coming out with a program for urgent action aimed at consolidating all the forces of the public, which adhere to the positions of socialism, into a common people's front for solving the tasks of restructuring.

The plenum released Lenginas Shepetis from the duties of secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee for ideology on the grounds of his retirement. Valerionas Baltrunas, a 48 year-old doctor, who in the past has worked as the first secretary of the Lithuanian Komsomol Central Committee and recently as head of a department in the Republican Communist Party Central Committee, was elected secretary.

Estonian Language Debate Called 'Battlefield'

PM2102130189 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by special correspondent Captain 3d Rank V. Urban under the rubric "The USSR Is Our Common Home": "One-Way Street"]

[Text] Tallinn-Moscow—Everyone recognizes the tension in national relations in Estonia now. Various reasons are cited, it is true. Most frequently the opinions are extreme:

"If overpopulation due to migrants continues, it will lead to genocide. Estonians are even now on the verge of being a minority within their own state."

"We came here after the war and helped to restore the ravaged economy. Do we Russians really deserve to be treated like this now?"

"You hardly hear Estonian spoken in Tallinn now. Why can I not speak my own native tongue?"

"...Such a thing as the imposition of the Estonian language in official business throughout the republic will act as a brake on the path of restructuring!"

Need I continue? Of course, all these statements may be regarded as an everyday perception of the situation. Or I may be accused of extracting quotations. There is enough emotion. But public opinion polls also attest that mutual concern about interethnic relations has increased. Their results show that people's assessments have become more pessimistic.

Let us note that all this applies to a conflict-free period in the development of various social forces and movements in the republic.

Passions were really aroused by the rally democracy which emerged during the discussion of the amendments to the USSR Constitution and of the new Law on Elections of People's Deputies. The publication of the republic draft law on language provoked an overt negative response from the Russian-speaking population....

Farewell to "Migrant"?

One of the starting points for the Estonian People's Front and a number of other public formations is a change in the demographic situation in the republic. It was last year that the active vocabulary here was supplemented by the word "migrant," meaning settler. It is not, of course, a question of the word itself but of the implication which it has acquired here: A migrant is someone without roots who hankers after the local benefits.

How, for example, are we to view the statement by the poet Ya. Kaplinskiy about sending people who have moved to the republic back to their original homes and paying them "fair compensation"? For the inconvenience caused, it has to be assumed. The "recommendations" were made in the newspaper EDAZI, and the article was called... "To Avoid Arguments." It deals with interethnic relations. But what conclusion can readers draw? As the journal KOMMUNIST ESTONII remarked, Kaplinskiy has "willy-nilly given the Russian-speaking section of the population grounds to ask: Is it... eviction that is being proposed, this time on purely ethnic grounds?"

It is almost 1 year since the poet's statement, but problems of migration seem to be arising in accordance with the same scenario.

Of course, there are problems. They have been named in a number of republic Communist Party Central Committee documents. The ban on bringing in manpower

from outside is a perfectly logical measure under conditions of economic accountability. But of what are people (and everyone individually) who came to Estonia 10, 20, or even 40 years ago guilty?

The People's Front congress committed its support groups in enterprises and establishments to "struggle against manpower which has come from outside." How is this to be understood? A worker from Narva or Kokhtla-Yarve will hardly split hairs—he will understand how it was written in the congress resolutions, which were published in all the newspapers.

In the opinion of Ya. Rebane, academician of the Estonian SSR Academy of Sciences, the present demographic situation has largely taken shape because of socioeconomic factors. The most intensive influx of people occurred during the first 5 postwar years. Industry was being rebuilt. A particularly large number of people from Russian oblasts headed for the depopulated northeast of Estonia, where there had been heavy fighting. The third generation of newcomers is already growing up there. Are they migrants too? Officially no one is insisting on eviction as such, but there is still a certain shock remaining following Kaplinskiy's statement and then the Estonian People's Front resolution to give preference to Estonian families in apartment policy in the northeast.

About apartments, incidentally. Migrants are said to be more "predisposed" to such a social benefit. This was the reason why the majority of them came. For decades recruiters from urban construction organizations, say, would lay down quite specific terms: If you work for so many years, you will have the right to an apartment. And skilled specialists moved from their homes of long standing. They came from Pskov, Novgorod, Belorussia, the Ukraine.

But now that the bans are in effect, it has turned out that minimal numbers of construction workers are being trained here. Not so long ago the newspaper VECHERNIY TALLINN showed the real picture in the example of an association. The "lure" is those same apartments. Only now the list of benefits for local inhabitants who come to construction sites has even had to be extended.

I. Mordvinov, honored journalist of the republic, believes that the cause of tension in interethnic relations is not so much "the suppression of migration" as "the tactless attitude of a considerable section of newcomers toward everything Estonian. The response to such an attitude is, naturally, not an enthusiastic expression of love...." This too should be taken into consideration. But, I believe, it is hardly worth seeking extreme migrants in everything.

"Yes, the Estonian land has become my own home," librarian A. Orlova writes from Sillamyae. "Is it my fault that I only know a few words of Estonian after living here almost 40 years? When I was a student, Estonian was not taught in school at all. Since 1965 it has been taught sporadically in Russian schools...."

Language, Law, and the "Private Individual"

National consciousness. Problems of union republics. Here too restructuring has helped to highlight the contradictions which arose during the years of Stalinism and stagnation. The attitude to language is being brought to the fore. In Estonia an attempt has been made for the first time in the country to resolve these issues juridically—the Law on Language was adopted here in January.

The debate began long ago and had a real basis. The Estonian language's sphere of use has narrowed. Here are just two examples which have been cited to me. The republic Gosagroprom used to send papers in Russian to kolkhozes. Dissertations had to be translated for approval by the Higher Degree Commission even if they were on Estonian philology.

However, the decision to make Estonian the state language also gave rise to reasonable objections. The publication of the draft law still further intensified the contradictions. The nonindigenous population saw it as an attempt to create an exclusive status for one nation—the Estonian nation.

The draft was also propagandized in a rather original way. Here is an episode from a meeting between representatives of the labor collective of the "Estrybprom" Production Association and M. Raniut, scientific staffer of the Estonian SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Language and Literature, as cited by V. Filonenko, secretary of the party committee of an administration of this association:

"This question was put: 'Will the law not infringe the interests of the Russian-speaking population?' And the answer came: 'No, we sent the draft law to Finland for expert appraisal. Specialists there concluded—no discrimination.'"

The people went away bewildered. It is perfectly reasonable that many Russian-speaking collectives adopted resolutions against the draft. The December session of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet decided not to adopt the law but to continue the discussion. Many unclear points and questions had accumulated. And they affected literally everyone.

Although the second draft softened individual points concerning the priority of the Estonian language, arguments flared up once again. The vote at the January session also attests to the contrasting nature of the deputies' views on these problems.

For example, knowledge of Estonian is now one of the demands made of a leader. This is perfectly admissible, but not always democratic. As Deputy V. Malkovskiy, first secretary of Narva Estonian Communist Party Gorkom, believes, the choice of leader is, above all, the prerogative of the labor collective.

At the press conference after the session A. Soydla, first deputy chairman of the republic Council of Ministers, admitted that certain articles of the law are stunning and

can be interpreted in two ways, but it cannot be dispensed with. The chief thing, he pointed out, is that the citizen has the right to choose his own language of communication, and many people still underestimate this.

The law enshrines the term "private individual" endowed with definite rights. And yet it is hard to remove alarm. Let us take the questions of obtaining vocational and higher education in Russian—"in accordance with the republic's requirements and potential." Guarantees for 40 percent of the population are not so much.

Sharp disputes are also aroused by the schedule for implementing the law—from 2 to 4 years. Suffice it to recall that it is not that easy to translate all official business into Estonian and train new translators. The present language situation has evolved over many years, so it will not be possible to master it quickly.

And yet many people in Estonia associate the Law on Language with an easing of tension in interethnic relations. This cannot be denied either.

What Kind of Pluralism Is Needed

The "battlefield" over the Law on Language did not fall quiet until the January session itself, and it could hardly be presupposed that everything would manage without rally democracy. But the appeal by the leadership of the OSTK [possibly Society of Labor Collectives Unions] and the Estonian SSR Labor Collectives Union, which unites Estonian-speaking enterprises, to renounce pressure on deputies and not organize processions and pickets on the day of the session was supported by public movements and labor collectives. This is an example of real consolidation.

As we see, not only confrontational pluralism is possible, as has already happened repeatedly in the republic, but pluralism which serves the common cause. But, of course, this specific instance is not yet a system. Reproaches and labels still make up the "air" of many debates here.

Take the "polemic" that developed following the PRAVDA articles by Academician G. Naan and L. Annus, editor of KOMMUNIST ESTONII, setting forth their positions on the situation in the republic. The local mass media have made a considerable effort to compromise the authors. They call them second-rate politicians and "dedicate" rhymes of rather trite substance to them. One of the arguments is "you must not wash your dirty linen in public"—they say they will look into the matter themselves. But why, in fact, must you not do this?

One of the authors who have attacked "dissidents" is the writer T. Kallas. It is curious that at the beginning of last year he himself published an interesting article in PRAVDA and wrote that internationalism "is always a two-way street." One-way internationalism simply does not exist, and mutual understanding is needed between two countercurrents. The writer is right. But what now—is it proposed to reverse the current?

It is also of concern that the Estonian People's Front still uses the right of glasnost more widely than does the International Movement, for example. The front's leadership includes approximately 20 representatives of the press, television, and radio. At the constituent conference of the International Movement's Tallinn organization O. Morozov was introduced as editor of the International Movement's information bulletin, but there is no newspaper itself.

And the last point. Communists head the Estonian People's Front and the International Movement. And consolidation must be commenced from party positions. The worker A. Shibin made this supposition in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA: "I hope that the Communist leaders of the Estonian People's Front and the International Movement will have sufficient common sense to really embark on the consolidation of these movements with the Estonian Communist Party, and those Communists who do not understand or do not wish to understand this step must be called strictly to account."

All is perfectly natural.

New Underground Tremors Registered in Armenia

LD2102175689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1732 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Feb (TASS)—The seismic stations in Armenia registered an underground tremor with a strength of 4.5 points in territory to the southeast of Kirovakan at 0106 Moscow time today [2206 GMT 20 February]. The tremor was repeated with a strength of 4 points to the west of the epicenter of the Spitak earthquake at 0302 [0002 GMT 21 February]. There are no casualties.

In recent days, according to data from the headquarters of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia dealing with earthquakes, underground tremors of insignificant strength have been constantly observed in the zone around Spitak. The character of the earth tremors registered and their number testify to the fact that the center of the earthquake is dying down in depths of the earth's crust. In the opinion of scientists, this could continue for a long time.

Update on Armenian Quake Damage, Casualties

NC1702134489 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0300 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Statement by the Press Information Center of the USSR Council of Ministers; date not given]

[Text] The Press Information Center of the USSR Council of Ministers reports that during the last week two more bodies of victims were uncovered while rubble was being cleared from the destroyed cities. The overall death toll now stands at 24,981.

Overall 39,794 victims have been pulled out of the rubble, of whom 12,384 have been hospitalized. Already 10,762 have been discharged from the hospitals, leaving 1,181 still under medical care.

A total of 119,318 children, women, and elderly people were evacuated from the disaster areas in an organized way. Of these, 74,349 are living in various sanatoriums, rest-homes, and hospices of the country.

From 11 February, a new census mode has been introduced. In accordance with this, the exact number of the homeless, alongside the number of evacuated citizens, also are being counted. According to the latest figures, there are now 363,567 homeless people.

By 15 February a figure of R8 million from the various republics of the country was deposited under account No 700412, bringing the total amount of aid to R1,279,000,000. On the same day the total amount received at the USSR Foreign Ministry's Trade Bank reached R16,428,000.

According to the republic's Finance Ministry, R466,583,000 already has been paid to the victims as temporary assistance for lost property; of this, R13 million was paid on 15 February alone.

According to reports on 15 February, our republic received an additional 72 prefabricated houses loaded on railcars. With the present figures, nearly 11,200 such houses have been handed over to the victims and builders.

The removal of the collapsed prestressed concrete structures is continuing from the destroyed cities. So far, 877,000 cubic meters of collapsed structures have been removed. In the meantime, the fields are being cleared of rubble; so far 106,000 cubic meters of rubble have been removed. The sorting out of iron scraps also is continuing; so far 9,550 tonnes of metal scrap have been handed over to the state for reprocessing.

Apparently, appropriate [word indistinct] have not been allocated for town construction facilities and for the basic construction installations. Despite the 2,500 hectares that were envisaged, the builders have been provided with only 1,814 hectars of land.

The sanitary and epidemiological situation in the disaster area is stable.

TASS Lists Earthquake Damages

LD2002121289 Moscow TASS in English 1149 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Yerevan February 20 TASS—Damage from last December's Armenian earthquake amounts to ten billion roubles, according to the Caucasian Republic's Committee on Statistics.

In a report detailing Armenia's economic and social development in 1988, it said that the quake affected 40 per cent of Armenian territory with a population of nearly one million.

More than 20 towns and 342 villages were affected and 58 of them completely destroyed. Twenty-five thousand bodies and 15,000 survivors were pulled from under the rubble. A total of 19,000 people were injured.

Eleven per cent of Armenia's housing stock was lost. A total of 130 factories had to stop work and 299 government-owned and cooperative farms were damaged.

The earthquake and serious mistakes in Armenian economic development in previous years as well as large-scale absenteeism during strikes, the report said, prevented the republic from meeting key social and economic targets last year.

Whereas national income in the Soviet Union as a whole grew by 4.5 per cent in the first eleven months of 1988, the corresponding figure for Armenia was just one per cent, while industrial production increased by a mere 0.4 per cent.

Government Allocates R150 Million to Armenia

NC1602174289 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0300 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have decided to provide R150 million to the republic's government to be used for repairing the earthquake damage caused to republican facilities.

The Armenian Republic's Council of Ministers has informed the people's deputies and the city and rayon party ispolkoms that these sums are allocted for the current year and are to be used for reconstruction and repair of the residential buildings; of the cultural, social, health, municipal, economic, [word indistinct], education, and administrative buildings; of institutions and enterprises; and of production units and [word indistinct] damaged by the earthquake, as well as for reinforcing new buildings.

One-third of the sum received has been allocated to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy for work projects to deal with the consequences of the earthquake.

Between 10 and 20 million rubles have been allocated to the public education, health, and [word indistinct] ministries, and to the Armenian cooperative.

Substantial sums have been provided to the Ministries of Culture, Communications, Social Security, Automobile Transport, Local Industry, Road Construction, and Maintenance; to the publishers of sports papers; to the First State Committees of [word indistinct] and of Publishing, Printing, and the Book trade; to the State Committee of [word indistinct]; and to the Armenian petroleum products planning and technological unit and the Armenian gas industry unit.

In addition, the republic's government has allowed the State Committee for Construction Affairs to use R38 million for reconstruction work on facilities producing

construction materials and on construction industries, and to use R7 million for feasibility studies on developing new master plans for the cities and towns damaged by the earthquake.

The Armenian Council of Ministers has instructed the ministries and the directors of the supervisory boards, organizations, and enterprises to personally oversee the rational use of these sums and not to allow wasteful and indiscriminate use.

Official Cites Figures for Benefits

NC1602182789 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Statement by Armenian SSR Finance Ministry]

[Text] Yerevan, 14 Feb, ARMENPRES—Following the 15 December 1988 decision of the USSR Council of Ministers on the provision for assisting the Armenian SSR population for the damage resulting from the earthquake, the people's deputies and rayon Soviet ispolkom committees in Armenia's northern regions and cities have paid R200 per month per person for 530,000 people. Also, R2,000 have been given to each family that lost its breadwinner. In addition, R500 have been paid for the burial of each member of a family. In sum, the payment was a total of R133 million. The payment of such benefits is virtually over in the republic. The payments are continuing for citizens who are temporarily outside the republic. Around R300 million have been rewarded as compensation for lost property and dwelling. Thus, by 10 February 1989, the assistance provided to the damaged cities totaled R433 million.

Inspector on Compensation Payments

NC1902113689 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] During its scheduled session, the CPSU Central Committee Commission indicated that paying compensation for property losses in the quake-damaged areas is proceeding slowly and thus prompting complaints. To untangle the problems related to this issue, our colleague Gevork Nazaryan visited the (Arakatskiy) Rayon.

[Begin recording] [Nazaryan] Let me tell you from the start that the rayons' (?state supervisory boards) are responsible for assessing damage to the citizens. The Arakatskiy Rayon supervisory board is located at a [word indistinct] faltering building in which there is not even [word indistinct]. We learned from those gathered there that the (?state board) has just moved in here from a abbandoned house. (?Inside, space was tight), yet intense activity was going on. My aim was to find out if this rayon's citizens were also complaining. Naturally, I first began to speak with them. Comrades, please come forward and tell us why you are here at the (?state board).

[First unidentified speaker] I am [name indistinct] from (Hovshen) village. As a result of the earthquake our home was destroyed. I want to hear in concrete terms how they have assessed the building.

[Second speaker] I am [name indistinct] from [place indistinct]. Our house was partially damaged in the earthquake, and I have come to see [word indistinct] the percentage assessment and [words indistinct] confirm the amount of money.

[Third speaker] I am [name indistinct]. I am working at the local village cooperative as an ispolkom chairman. I came here to see [words indistinct] our efforts with the (?state board) because on 7 December [words indistinct] concrete meetings with the population [words indistinct] the work to alleviate together [words indistinct] the situation of the houses in the two settlement areas. As you know 58 villages in the republic were completely destroyed—10 of them in our rayon—out of which two villages [words indistinct] together with the (?state board), [name indistinct], rayispolkom and [name indistinct] we are conducting serious work to provide timely help to the population.

[Nazaryan] I spoke with many, and no one mentioned any complaints. Rather, we heard positive things about the (?state board) staff. The rayon (?state board) chief, Shirak Palazyan, said that the people have already suffered and one cannot but understand and help them. He added:

[Palazyan] Soon after the earthquake, the rayispolkom set up 5 relevant committees made up of [words indistinct] representatives from all over the settlements, from finance department, [word indistinct] and specialists [word indistinct] from the republic and union. These committees immediately undertook to inventory and assess the buildings and household items in the damaged villages. At present, the evaluation work in all 22 villages of the rayon is completed, and by our calculations the damage is R9.8 million. Up to now, R5.2 million have been distributed to the population.

[Nazaryan] This means that not all citizens have received compensation. What is the reason for this? In what way are specialists from Yerevan contributing to the distribution work? Let us listen to republic's chief inspector of the (?state board) (Igid) Manukyan.

[Manukyan] I have been here since 9 December 1988 in order to extend and coordinate the efforts in assessing the damages in the rayon and in resolving them. With me [words indistinct] Keshishyan [words indistinct] and (Karineh Avakyan). We were deciding on the amount of damage. [passage indistinct]. The population does not know how to assess the amount of damages to the buildings. We [words indistinct] already two villages [words indistinct] on the spot and are clarifying the situation.

[Nazaryan] There is another aspect of the problem. Because of the continuing tremors, the cracks on the buildings are growing larger as is, commensurately, the danger to citizens. As a result people are asking for new assessments in order to get more compensation. Thus the

(?state board) staff is naturally losing more time in meeting the legal demands of the citizens and, consequently, compensation is not being paid on time. [end recording]

Spitak Reconstruction Begins on New Site

LD1602090589 Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Yerevan February 15 TASS—By TASS Special Correspondent Sergey Svistunov:

February 15 has become the day of Spitak's Rebirth. The cornerstone of a residential house, the first building of the future town, was laid today. The town will be situated 6 km south west of the ruins of former Spitak destroyed by a devastating quake in Armenia last December.

The new site for the town was chosen in a seismically safer place. Office buildings, the shopping and the cultural centres will be situated in the centre of a level site. They will be surrounded with residential quarters. The town will have a population of 20 thousand. The most necessary facilities—residential houses, schools, kindergartens, a hospital, will be built first of all. People from Estonia and Uzbekistan will participate in the construction alongside Armenian specialists. Foreign countries which came to Armenia's assistance will make considerable contribution. A whole "Italian village"—A quarter of prefabricated houses presented as a gift to Armenia and assembled by Italian builders will spring up in Spitak. [sentence as received) A hospital for residents of the Spitak district will be built on the funds of the Norwegian Red Cross Society.

Three enterprises are planned to be restored in the old town—A sugar refinary, a bakery and a flour mill. Other industrial facilities will be built on new sites.

Pavlik Asataryan, secretary of the Spitak district party committee, in a conversation with the TASS correspondent expressed the confidence that the building operations will be concluded within the preset period of time, two years.

Kirovakan's Reconstruction Plans Outlined

NC2002075990 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Kirovakan, the third largest city of Armenia, suffered enormous damage from the catastrophic earthquake. Forty-one buildings collapsed totally with more than 460 partially damaged, including industrial facilities, socio-economic enterprises, schools, and kindergartens.

The prominent architects of the fraternal republics' contractual and construction organizations have contributed greatly to the city's planned 2-year reconstruction. One-to four-storey metal-framed, compact buildings covering more than 1 million sq meters in the new districts' residential areas and small settlements of Kirovakan are planned. These and the other intact buildings must be reinforced with buttresses so they can withstand a 9-force tremor.

Taking into consideration the fact that the buildings must be erected speedily, the [name indistinct] supervisory commission in Armenia has set 20 February as the deadline for completing the draft plans. The Ukrainian architects' draft plans, which were for nine-storey buildings in Tashkent, are being altered to plan for three- to four-storey buildings with better exteriors. Draft plans were also received from Yugoslavia and Bulgaria; these plans envisage one-storey homes for small families. These plans were worked out with the means at the disposal of the construction workers from these countries. The staff of the Armenian state planning committee is also engaged in intensive creative work preparing the draft plans of [word indistinct] settlement areas of Kirovakan. The collective headed by architect (Sergey Amergaghyan) is responsible for the draft plans of Darbas District of Kirovakan and of the (Samaghyan) settlement area of (Kilikyan). Homes with a capacity of 90,000 square meters in residential areas are to be built in Darbas District, a part of which will be [word indisinct] type and the rest will have adjacent lands. Besides being comfortable, they will be [word indistinct] (?sturdy) and be in the national architectural style.

We spoke to the architects. Their aim is basically the same: To reconstruct our devasted cities speedily and with quality and to provide the homeless with sturdy homes protected against earthquakes.

'Tension' Persists in 'Outwardly Calm' Armenia

PM2002154389 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 89 First Edition p 4

[Special correspondent Lieutenant Colonel O. Falichev report under the rubric "A Reader Asks": "In the Streets of Yerevan"—first two paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] "The shock caused by the earthquake has subsided," Muscovite I. Zemnukhin writes to the editorial office, "and, as a fellow serviceman who has recently visited Armenia told me, political extremists are said to be again rearing their heads there. Is this true? Of late the newspapers have been reporting on the situation in Transcaucasia much more scantily, in my view. This is wrong. I believe that all Soviet people are very concerned about the development of events there."

We contacted our special correpondent in Yerevan yesterday and asked him to answer the reader's question.

As the spring approaches, the sun over Yerevan is getting brighter and brighter. And many inhabitants, especially young people, are coming out without headgear. Posters

in the streets indicate that the theater and concert season is in full swing, there are announcements of the upcoming performances, in the Armenian capital, of Yelena Obraztsova....

By comparison with December last year, there are almost no armored personnel carriers in the streets. But there are some, nonetheless. Parked in public gardens, away from roads and busy crossroads, there are fewer of them, but they are there. On the road to "Zvartnots," for instance, I saw an Army tent that seemed to have become a permament fixture, and next to it an armored personnel carrier and an infantry fighting vehicle. This is how our servicemen, who safeguard tranquillity in the city after the introduction of the special situation there, are spending the winter camping out.

There are no disturbances or disorders. However, certain facts indicate that clandestine agitation among the population, which can only be described as incitement, is being conducted by representatives of the so-called "Karabakh" committee. From time to time extremist leaflets appear in the city, especially at the "Rossiya" movie theater, the Writers House, and elsewhere. There, too, rumors and all sorts of fabrications circulate among the crowd. For instance, this one: The government decision to discontinue operations at the AES ahead of schedule was allegedly taken because the power station was damaged during the earthquake, and represents a danger to the population now. Yesterday I personally visited the AES together with Senior Lieutenant Artur Karapetyan. I can testify: The AES has not been damaged; both power units are functioning.

Among a certain section of the population heated discussions are under way about preparations for a rally to mark the anniversary of the Sumgait events 28 February. State University Russian Language and Literature Department lecturers A. Matevosyan, V. Khachaturyan, and others have addressed a statement reminiscent of an ultimatum to the Special District military commandant on this subject. I do not know how the commandant will react to this. At the moment I can only say that under the conditions of the curfew all rallies, demonstrations, marches, or any other forms of gatherings are banned.

On the whole, the situation in the capital and in those parts of the Republic where a curfew is in force is normal. However, it has to be said that every day reports arrive from district military commandants' offices about violations of the established order. For this reason 82 people and 28 vehicles were detained on 17 February alone.

The migration of people of Armenian origin from Azerbaijan continues. According to the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers commission, 166,024 migrants had arrived in the Republic by 16 February. All this indicates that tension still persists, unfortunately, behind the outwardly calm situation.

Yerevan Military Commandant Reports 'No Incidents'
NC1702121989 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0525 GMT 17 Feb 89

[From the review of SOVETAKAN AYASTAN]

[Text] As always, the statement by the military commandant of the special district is published on the paper's last page. The statement reads: The situation in the republic's capital and in those areas where curfew hours are in effect is under the full supervision of the troops and organs of the Interior Ministry.

On 16 February no incidents or crimes occurred in connection with the implementation of the requirements of the curfew hours.

Armenian Refugees Return to Azerbaijan
PM1602153789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Special correspondent A. Kazikhanov report under the rubric "Details for IZVESTIYA": "Light in the Windows Once Again"]

[Text] Baku—According to the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers special department for work with people who have left their place of permanent residence, as of mid-February 48,340 Armenians had returned to the republic (40,178 of them to Baku).

In all, over the course of the well known events, 130,000 Azerbaijanis (or 28,000 families) left Armenia and 102,679 Armenians left the Azerbaijan SSR.

Work aimed at returning people to their homes continues. The leaders of rayon and republican institutions and social organizations in the two republics meet with one another regularly and discuss measures for the refugees' return.

Azerbaijan is being strict in its approach toward those who helped to fuel national tension and prevented Armenians from going to work. Party proceedings have been taken against 895 people, 450 of them in leadership posts. Twenty people have been expelled from the party. Administrative proceedings have been taken against 2,036 people, including 268 leaders. And 233 people have been fired.

...For several months the dark windows of the abandoned apartments gazed reproachfully at the people of Baku, a reminder of the disrupted lives of friends, neighbors, and relatives. Today it seems that people have begun to cope with the disease of national strife. This is attested by those same windows, in which the lights are going back on. I talked with the "returnees."

M. Zakharova, senior bookkeeper in the leasing department of the Narimanovskiy Rayon housing administration in Baku:

"I felt sick when the rallies in the city began. No, there was no problem at work and my Azerbaijani colleagues treated me fine. But I was scared by the crowds shouting anti-Armenian slogans and by the rumors of pogroms in store. I got together with my sister and we left. We went first to Pyatigorsk and then to Yerevan. To wait things out. The management helped out and gave me extraordinary leave.... Now I'm back. How could I live without Baku? I was born here!"

A. Babayan, worker in Housing Maintenance Administration No 36:

"Baku is my native city: I have lived here for 74 years. See those old trees over there on Ryleyev Street? My friends and I planted them when we were youngsters. I left here to go to the front and came back here after the war....

"When I left for Yerevan in the footsteps of my children—my daughter and her husband—I left my Azerbaijani friends to look after my things and apartment. But that's no big deal, our in-laws include a mountain Jew, an Azerbaijani, and a Russian. When we returned to Baku, they gave us the warmest of welcomes."

G. Petrosyan, page makeup artist in the republic's KOMMUNIST Publishing House:

"My wife and I decided to go to Kaliningrad, where she has relatives. I was given leave. To be honest, I didn't believe I was leaving forever: Our neighbors—the Azerbaijanis Zair and Elmira Mamedov and Russian Aunt Anya Rossomakhina—looked after our apartment. I left, but my heart was in Baku. I called my mother and asked about the situation.... After a month she told me: 'Genrikh, the publishing house called, they asked me to get hold of you and tell you to come back to work urgently.' So here we are...."

The bitter, impartial truth is now being voiced from the platform of republican party-economic aktiv meetings and meetings of labor collectives in Azerbaijan. The truth about the corruption, nepotism, and Communist arrogance that enmeshed the republic over recent decades, about the overreporting in industry and agriculture, and about the disturbing ecological situation.

The republican press is regularly publishing information about measures to combat nationalists and extremists and is reacting in a clear-cut and timely fashion to rumors, which just a little while ago kindled the flames of tension in interethnic relations.

People are coming to their sense and are beginning to realize where the dark forces tried to push them. The fact that people are returning home is evidence of that.

Baku Commandant Issues Situation Notices

Situation 'Peaceful' 19 Feb

NC2102134789 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Notice by the military commandant of Baku City Special District]

[Text] There was no great change in the situation in the city on Sunday. The situation was peaceful.

[Signed] Lieutenant General Kolesnikov, military commandant of Baku City Special District.

Measures Foster Normalization

NC2102141989 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Notice by the military commandant of Baku City Special District]

[Text] There were no changes in the situation in the city during the day. It has been peaceful. No violations of public law and order were recorded. The combined effort made by the party, soviet, and law enforcement organs in the struggle against violations of the law is being consistently strengthened. Meanwhile, work is continuing in the labor collectives of the institutions and establishments to normalize interethnic relations.

The citizens of Baku are supporting all the measures that have been put into effect to strengthen organization, discipline, and public law and order. The vast majority of the population is complying with the curfew regime. In general, the measures that have been put into effect are contributing to the further normalization of the situation in the city.

However, the number of thefts and crimes against individuals in the city is not lessening. Many young people and juveniles are among those who are breaking the law. A study of lawbreaking has revealed that 65 percent of the crimes committed this year occurred in the Narimanov, Shaumyan, and Lenin rayons. I wish to draw attention to the gathering of peoples at the Narimanov, (?Neftchiler), and [words indistinct] subway stations, the Baku railway station, [name indistinct] street, and other places under the pretext of exchanging living quarters. This constitutes violation of the terms of the special situation in Baku city. After recalling this, I would like to urge the citizens and guests of the city to abide by the rules and regulations established in Baku.

[Signed] Lieutenant General Kolesnikov, military commandant of Baku City Special District.

Profiteering, 'Negative' Work Noted

NC2202094789 Baku Domestic Service in Russian 0530 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Notice from Lieutenant General Kolesnikov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District]

[Text] The commandant's office is receiving complaints from the city's inhabitants about unsatisfactory work by several trade units, poor customer account-keeping, and rudeness on the part of salespeople in providing service to citizens. The law enforcement organs are adopting some measures to stop such negative manifestations.

As reported by law enforcement organs and the procuracy of the (Nasimenskiy) Rayon, (Dzhemail Ismail ogly Kuliyev), the junior salesman at No 6 store of the Baku trade organization, was dismissed from his job for rudeness and (?discrimination) in giving service to persons of a different nationality.

In the course of stock-taking at the rayon store in the village of [name indistinct], its official Aydin Gasan ogly Dzhezarov was found to be involved in a swindle. He [words indistinct] customer accounts and profiteering in alcoholic beverages and cigarettes, as well as other scarce commodities. Criminal proceedings have been instituted.

While conducting a check at the kolkhoz market in the (?third) rayon of Baku City, militia organs uncovered cases of profiteering in agricultural produce by citizens Nastrayev, Imamov, and Vogazov. Their files have also been turned over to the prosecuting authorities.

The situation in the city remains without substantial changes. No violations of public order have been reported.

[Signed] Lieutenant General Kolesnikov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District.

New Azerbaijan Council Chairman on Economy

PM2102111389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with A. Mutalibov, chairman of Azerbaijan Council of Ministers, by IZVESTIYA special correspondent A. Kazikhanov under the rubric "Names and Events": "A. Mutalibov: I Make the Economy My Priority. Ayaz Niyazovich Mutalibov Confirmed as Chairman of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Baku—He was born in 1938. He is a graduate of the Azerbaijan Institute of Petroleum and Chemistry. He worked at a scientific research institute and then switched to the production sphere: He progressed from engineer and shop foreman to association general director. He was secretary of Narimanovskiy Azerbaijan Communist Party Raykom and then Azerbaijan SSR local industry minister. His last post was chairman of the Gosplan and deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers.

[Kazikhanov] What is the new Azerbaijan Council of Ministers chairman's view of the current economic situation in the republic?

[Mutalibov] Judged by the old criteria, the economic situation is good: Enterprises are striving to increase output and they are fulfilling and overfulfilling plans. But, as an economist, I think that a number of the republic's major economic enterprises are in a serious financial and economic state. Some of them even now produce output at costs which simply do not cover the outlay on production [sentence as published].

[Kazikhanov] What new ideas do you bring to your new post?

[Mutalibov] My first duty was to familiarize people—the council of ministers apparatus and its presidium—with my platform, which is long overdue. Above all, it involves work in the main, priority areas outlined in the republic—universal computerization, improvement of industry in the area of high-technology production, and improvement of ecology. The Council of Ministers must not deal with trivial matters; it must be the headquarters, the brain, not a supply and emergency rescue team.

As you have noticed, I put the economy, not social matters, first. This is natural, because the solution of social and consumer questions depends on the state of the economy.

[Kazikhanov] But will the republic be able to cope with what has been planned?

[Mutalibov] Naturally, we ourselves must ensure that we have our own financial base. But in view of the republic's demographic features and the manpower surplus, we cannot get by without committed assistance from the center.

In short, the republic must work primarily in the interests of the state and try to increase its own natinal income at minimum cost.

[Kazikhanov] But if you don't mind, Ayaz Niyazovich, leaving the economy aside, let us try to move the conversation in the direction of you personally....

[Mutalibov] But what can I say: After all, the economy today is the most interesting, albeit most painful issue. But I haven't always wanted to be an economist: In my youth I dreamed of being a movie director....

[Kazikhanov] Finally, the now traditional question: a few words about your family....

[Mutalibov] My wife is a doctor. I have two sons. The elder followed tradition and started his career at a plant; the younger one is still a student.

Azerbaijani Commission on Interethnic Ties Meets
PM1602152789 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 8 Feb 89 p 2

[Azerinform report: "Improving Interethnic Relations"]

[Text] The first session of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Commission on Interethnic Relations has taken place at which the basic directions of the commission's work and the work plan for the first half of 1989 were discussed. The session was chaired by S.B. Tatliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the commission.

It was noted that the processes of restructuring, democratization, and glasnost have affected all spheres of the life of our society including interethnic relations which demand particular attention. It is the commission's task to improve interethnic relations on the basis of Lenin's nationalities policy and the party's course toward the comprehensive development of each nation and ethnic group in the light of the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference.

For a long time due attention was not paid to questions of interethnic relations. What is required today is the careful study and the thoughtful and profound analysis of problems arising here, and their prompt solution. The commission which has been set up is called upon to give every assistance to the republic's party organization in the work to improve interethnic relations, to ensure the harmonious and equitable development of all nations and ethnic groups, and to satisfy the socioeconomic, cultural, and spiritual needs of the national minorities residing on the republic's territory. It is essential, the session's participants stressed, to elevate to a new level the entire work on the ideological, patriotic, and internationalist education of the populace, and to strengthen and develop the economic, cultural, and other links between the labor collectives of the Azerbaijan SSR with the workers of all fraternal republics.

An important role in the solution of these tasks belongs to Communists and party organizations which must intensify the attention given to problems of the development of various regions, and to the needs of the republic's population. Special attention, it was observed at the session, requires to be paid to questions of the history and the spiritual life of the Azerbaijani people, and of the preservation and development of the national culture and language, and of folk traditions and customs. Close cooperation needs to be established with the corresponding party bodies of other union republics for the solution of questions of the socioeconomic and cultural development of Azerbaijanis domiciled there, and links with fellow Azerbaijanis abroad need to be developed via the relevant public organizations.

Taking into account the acuteness and complexity that have come about in interethnic relations in connection with the events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, the commission defined the improvement of the situation in the region as one of the top-priority tasks. The way to achieve this is for the party, soviet, public, economic, and law enforcement bodies of the republic to fulfill fully and unconditionally the decisions of the country's party and government on Nagorno-Karabakh. It is essential to ensure the close cooperation of republic bodies with the Committee for the Special Administration of the NKAO so as to solve pressing questions of the development of the oblast, taking into account the interests of all peoples, the strengthening of law and order, and the observance of the constitutions of the USSR and Azerbaijan SSR.

Much is to be done in order to render assistance to persons who have left their places of permanent residence, to organize their relocation, place them in employment, and take all steps to return people to their native homes and restore them to their previous places of work.

Those who spoke at the session were: Mirza Ibragimov, people's writer of the Azerbaijan SSR; K.A. Khalilov, personal pensioner; D.B. Guliyev, vice president of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences; K.A. Guseynov, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Chamber of Trade and Industry Presidium; Elchin [no other name or initials listed], presidium chairman of the "Veten" Society for cultural relations with fellow Azerbaijanis abroad; Z. Yu. Rustamov, first secretary of the Imishlinskiy Azerbaijan Communist Party Raykom; F.A. Faradzhev, deputy chairman of the republic's Gosplan; V.G. Mamedov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Raykom named for the 26 Baku Commissars; E.Ye. Grigoryan editor of the newspaper KOMMUNIST (Armenian language); and A.F. Dashdamirov, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee State Law Department.

A decision was adopted on organizational work to prepare proposals for the CPSU Central Committee Plenum on improving interethnic relations in the USSR.

Azeri Language Measures Favor 'Cultural Heritage'
PM2102144789 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 9 Feb 89 p 3

[Article by Doctor of Philological Sciences Professor G. Guliyev under the rubric "Topical Theme": "Key to Mutual Understanding"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is well known that there have been two alphabet reforms within a short space of time in Azerbaijan. The rejection of the Arab alphabet essentially removed younger generations' access to the treasury of classical literature. Now even among specialist philologists there are few people who can read the classic writers' books.... Then it was the turn of the Latin alphabet to be renounced. All this left its mark on the language.

It is gratifying that recently not only has interest in this problem been aroused but specific measures are being taken to return to the people their cultural heritage. In particular it has been decided to transliterate our classic literature and transpose it into the modern Azerbaijani alphabet.

Today a new problem has arisen connected with disproportions in teaching different languages in the republic. Priority attention is paid to the Russian language as the language of interethnic communication on the scale of the country. It occupies a considerable place in educational programs at all stages of instruction—from school to VUZ. Bilingual conditions require the same attention to the teaching of the Azeri language and to the raising of its status as one of the languages of interethnic communication on a regional scale. But in the republic's Russian schools, particularly in Baku and other large cities, the Azeri language and literature are studied only formally, only as optional subjects. Unfortunately, the graduates of these schools not only have a poor knowledge of their native language and literature but do not have even elementary information about the history, geography, culture, and art of their native republic.

I am speaking here of students of indigenous nationality. Yet this problem is also topical with regard to students of other nationalities. Perhaps even to a greater degree. A knowledge of the languages and cultural traditions of interacting peoples is the main condition for mutual understanding and a respectful attitude toward each other and the improvement of patriotic and international education.

Another problem is determining the status of a national language and, where it has already been constitutionally recognized as a state language (for instance, in Azerbaijan), enhancing its role and importance.

That dictates the need to improve the quality of the teaching of the national language and to expand the production of new, improved manuals and textbooks, dictionaries, phrase books, teach yourself manuals, and so forth. It is also necessary to achieve the more active participation of teachers, scientists, writers, and the entire intelligentsia in the elaboration of a program and the preparation of textbooks on literature. In Russian language schools in Azerbaijan the teaching of national literature should, it seems to us, be conducted simultaneously with Russian literature. But the matter is not restricted to the development of methods of instruction and to training merely for schools operating in the republic. We should also think about providing a grounding in this literature for the 769,000 Azerbaijanis who, according to the figures of the 1979 census, live on the territory of other union republics. After all, as is well known, about 55 million Soviet people live beyond their national territorial formations or have none.

The national languages of the union republics, including the Azeri language, should expand the spheres of their functioning and be used more actively in science, culture, business, and so forth. It is essential to actually give them the status of state languages. It is possible to achieve this only by establishing complete equality for the republic's state language and the language of interethnic communication adopted in the country.

The times dictate new approaches in asserting genuine national-Russian bilingualism. These include the introduction of varied educational and instructive television programs which would take into account the requests of viewers and listeners of the most varied ages and interests, the organization of language courses, intensive cultural exchange between republics, and the popularization of national literature, making it easier for thousands of people to enter another language system. All these questions are interconnected and require a comprehensive solution. And not somewhere in the remote future but today, right now.

NKAO Administration Committee Meets 16 Feb

PM2202094589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 89 Second Edition p 2

[Special correspondent Lieutenant Colonel N. Belan dispatch: "Nagorno-Karabakh: New Syle of Management. Reportage from a session of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Special Administration Committee"]

[Text] Stepanakert (via the telephone)—From now on these sessions of the committee will take place regularly. Twice a month with the broad participation of the oblast's party, soviet, and economic leaders in their work. The first session was held 16 February.

This reportage is also a first. In the past the daily conferences, in which members of the committee and invited comrades met, took place behind closed doors. Even though the oblast population was subsequently briefed on the decisions taken there. To this session, however, the editor of the oblast newspaper SOVETSKIY KARABAKH and a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent were invited. This is another feature of the great glasnost which reigns in the work of the Special Administration Committee.

The session lasted more than 5 hours. There were more than 10 questions on the agenda, each more urgent than the other, be it the oblast's socioeconomic development, or preparations for elections of USSR People's Deputies, approaching spring field work, or cadre reshuffles. Essentially, they were all interconnected, tangled up in the tight knot of problems which fashion life in the NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast].

"I have travelled virtually throughout the whole country, but nowhere have I seen such a neglected economy as here," A. Volskiy, chairman of the special administration committee and chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, said. "The oblast is up to its ears in debt. The situation is so bad that you have to travel hundreds of kilometers to buy nails. Agriculture, which accounts for 70 percent of gross output, is in a lamentable state.

The social sphere? Medical care? Infant mortality is more than double the country's average. In July when I arrived here I was staggered by the fact that there were practically no vegetables in the stores. Now the shortage of vegetables is even more acute."

We, the Committee chairman said further, have proved unready for serious economic work. Yet our economy is relatively simple because the oblast is small and compact and regional economic accountability presents fewer problems than would be the case elsewhere in the country. So what does it all hinge on? On the ability to think and run the economy in new fashion, to rid ourselves of the old mentality and old approaches. Take for instance the creation of associations in the oblast and in Stepanakert. It would be sensible for enterprises of the local light industry, for instance, to amalgamate. However, it is not easy to gain understanding for this. From the viewpoint of economic accountability there should be a maximum of 8 or 10 associations at most in the oblast and the city, but so far enterprise directors are not supporting this idea. We sat and argued with them for 4 hours recently, and when we parted no one had changed his opinion. Or they presented me with a sort of schematic diagram for setting up associations. On it some 30 little squares had been drawn—they had all made sure they had their own office. What sort of approach is this?

The development of leasing relations under family and collective contracts in the countryside and ways of introducing them in practice were discussed. I am convinced that leasing will be successful here, Volskiy insisted. People who have learned to make use of every bit of land, of wrenching it from the mountains, making something out of nothing, are capable of a great deal. It is merely necessary to create the right conditions for them, to give them an incentive, to make the peasants feel that they are in charge of the land.

This optimism is not unfounded. After all, it has already proved possible to stabilize the situation in the economy, the indicators for January are not bad. Agreements have been concluded to install the latest equipment at a number of the city's enterprises.... However, it would be wrong to delude ourselves with the first successes. As V. Plisov, member of the committee and USSR deputy minister of heavy, power, and transport machine building noted, the solution of many cardinal questions will have to be begun from scratch, from planning, in-depth and comprehensive planning. What is needed, for instance, is a comprehensive program for the development of health care in the oblast. It is scandalous that there is no approved general development plan for Stepanakert, the municipal services are in a state of complete disarray, and there are no prospects for the development of a number of key sectors.

The time when mere slogans and appeals were enough is gone. The committee has begun to exact strict responsibility for the work done, it is posing the following question: Are you, esteemed comrade leader, capable of organizing your work? For instance, when M. Mirzoyan, chairman of the Stepanakert Gorispolkom, reported on the need for urgent measures to improve water supplies in the city—and the state of water supplies is illustrated by the fact that per capita water consumption is only half the union average—one of the leaders said: "These problems have built up here over decades."

"How could you allow this?"—Volskiy cut him short abruptly. "After all, people's patience is not boundless, it may explode."

Those in charge of water supplies were given a final warning.

Another, and perhaps the most important thing at the committee session, was the collective consultations and the elaboration of a concrete program of action. For instance the raising of mulberry silkworms came up for discussion. V. Gabriyelyan, first secretary of the Askeranskiy party raykom, and party raykom first secretaries from other rayons stated unanimously: "This is disadvantageous. We buy mulberry leaves at exorbitant prices, drag people away from field work at the height of the season, and as a result the oblast incurs losses of up to R1 million annually." The result was a number of concrete proposals to deal with this situation. Ways of developing livestock breeding and viticulture and establishing processing enterprises on the spot were discussed in the same businesslike fashion. Efforts were made to identify reserves. For instance, there is a pond which could be used to farm fish which is so far in short supply on the market. But who is to tackle this?

Perhaps a cooperative should be set up?—V. Sidorov, a member of the committee suggested.

The proposal was adopted.

If they attended the session, some people might think: Such a high-powered body, this committee, and yet it is counting every tonne of seed; literally scraping the barrel, it managed to get together 30 tonnes of potatoes in order to deliver them to kindergartens, and so on and so forth. Are these not trifling matters? After all, the committee includes CPSU Central Committee officials, an AUCCTU secretary, and a deputy minister.

"Our most crucial and important task at the moment is to ensure food supplies to the population," Volskiy said.

Indeed, the needs, concerns, and troubles of ordinary people—this is what is at the focus of the committee's policy and activities. Is it not these needs which were ignored over decades which led to the buildup of grievances and justified criticism? Then passions ran riot: It was said that Azerbaijan's previous leadership had driven the oblast into an impasse.... And subsequently a squaring of accounts began, but this time with ordinary people and for the sole reason that they were of a different nationality.

Economic questions, social questions, questions pertaining to the development of culture... questions relating to interethnic relations.... How intertwined all this is. These

questions are also at the focus of the current election campaign. There are seven electoral okrugs in the oblast. In these okrugs 59 candidate deputies have been put forward.

A crucial period is beginning in the oblast—okrug preelection meetings—V. Mishin, member of the committee and AUCCTU secretary, said. Party committees must not remain on the sidelines, yet some people are still taking a wait-and-see approach: What will be, will be. It is necessary to persuade people: The most worthy, constructively thinking and acting comrades must be chosen as candidates. Loudmouths and demagogues who skillfully play on voters' national feelings must not be allowed to become candidates.

It is impossible to cover the whole range and depth of the problems raised at the committee session. But here is something that has stuck in my mind in particular, something that rang out as a high, piercing note. In addition to the problems mentioned above, another equally important one was being discussed—that of the All-Union Commemorative Book. This is to ensure that not one name of the tens of thousands of Nagorno-Karabakh inhabitants who defended the motherland against the fascists and their feats of arms may be forgotten. Yes, great is a people which keeps keenly alive the remembrance of history, the remembrance of every soldier who fell on the field of battle. Such a people has a bright future.

V. Lobkov, chief of a CPSU Central Committee Department sector, participated in the work of the committee's session.

Obkom Official Queried on Electoral, Refugee Issues

PM1702111189 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 9 Feb 89 p 2

[B. Imanguliyev interview with G. Isayev, first secretary of Nakhichevan Azerbaijan Communist Party Obkom: "Justifying People's Trust"; date and place of interview not specified]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [B. Imanguliyev] There is now an opportunity in the course of the election campaign to develop the incipient democratic transformations. I would like to know what is being done in the republic in this area?

[Isayev] Candidates are being nominated in the republic in a more democratic atmosphere under conditions of broad glasnost. We have finally stopped choosing "one man from one candidate." I must say that elections to local soviets were held in multimandate okrugs in Ilichevskiy Rayon by way of an experiment in 1987. This experience has stood us in good stead today. However, it is important to avoid window-dressing, a pro forma approach to the affair, and stage-management.

It is gratifying that candidacies are being discussed in an atmosphere of criticism and amid an acute struggle of opinions and clash of positions. It is this approach to the discussion of candidacies that has enabled us to detect the negative trend whereby people try to nominate a candidate they like owing to parochial and cliquish interests and try to use democracy for selfish ends. We are waging an uncompromising struggle against this. Glasnost and voters' increasing activeness has has been of great assistance to us.

[Imanguliyev] Working people in the autonomous republic, as throughout Azerbaijan, have experienced hard times linked with the exacerbation of interethnic relations in the Transcaucasus. The autonomous republic is today faced with the difficult problem of immigrants. The reasons for the conflict are well known—they include unresolved problems in the socioeconomic field and the cultural and ecological spheres and shortcomings in working people's international education. What specific steps is the oblast party organization taking to improve the situation?

[Isayev] As is well known, the autonomous republic welcomed thousands of immigrants from Armenia last October and November. At the same time approximately 1,900 Armenian nationals left the Nakhichevan ASSR.

The immigrants have been offered all manner of assistance ranging from grants to allocation of plots of land. But our main concern all the same is to strive to return people to their native homes and places of permanent residence. Positive changes have already emerged here: More than 50 Armenian families have returned to the Nakhichevan ASSR. In resolving this serious problem, the party organization is guided by the well known CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions aimed at normalizing the situtions in the region and is carrying out its own work in the spirit of the appeal made by the Azerbaijan and Armenian Communist Party Central Committees and the Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidiums and Councils of Ministers to citizens who have left their permanent place of residence. The autonomous republic's Council of Ministers has set up a commission of three groups to work among the immigrants. They regularly travel to the Armenian SSR and have meetings with party and soviet leaders. We plan to hold such meetings at all levels both in our autonomous republic and in Armenia. Our paramount duty is to restore good-neighborly relations between the two peoples.

The riots in Nakhichevan were to a considerable extent sparked off by the former party obkom leadership's "stagnant" thinking, which was also manifested in international education. Pompous ceremonial instead of analysis of the real processes in the sphere of interethnic relations, the hushing up of problems instead of a quest for ways to resolve them, and toasts to friendship instead of painstaking individual work all had adverse consequences.

We must now above all seek mutual trust and restore economic and cultural contacts. We must be more bold in assuming responsibility for making the first move for the sake of friendship.

KGB Official Comments on Far East Zones Red Tape
PM2102113589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Unattributed article under the "Follow-Up" rubric: "Another Word About a Visa for the Wife"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA's publication of a rejoinder by a TASS correspondent from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk entitled "Visa for the Wife" (No. 252 1988) generated numerous responses. It talked about the paper obstacle course that the inhabitants of the Far East have to go through—because they live in the border zone—to get permission to travel to neighboring oblasts where the USSR State Border runs, just like in their own locality.

This is what Leningrader V.G. Martynov, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, writes:

"I received an official invitation to a meeting of the defenders of the city of Kandalaksha 6 September last year, a city that I haven't visited since 1942. It was to have been held 27 September through 2 October. I applied to the appropriate internal affairs organ department where I learned that my request would take 10 days to process. Since my departure from Leningrad for the meeting was scheduled for 26 September, I had to transfer R62 in advance to Kandalaksha's Bank for Financing Capital Investments [Stroybank] to cover the cost of the 'travel pass.' However, I couldn't reserve a ticket or forward money before receiving authorization and as a result I had to forgo my meeting with my comrades in arms."

It is not only people wishing to travel to the border zone who are forced to endure nervous tension and otiose formalities but also the people living there. These problems need to be solved. Reader A. Bochko from Kharkov reasonably points out that the state border runs 12 miles from the coastal strip in the Baltic and Black Seas. Yet Adler, Sochi, and Palanga are not considered a border zone. Thus, the security of our frontiers can probably be ensured without creating unnecessary inconveniences for our country's citizens.

"You're right. These questions must be resolved," said Major General B. Golyshev, deputy chief of the USSR KGB Border Troops Political Directorate, whom TASS correspondent A. Antonov asked to comment on the letters. "However, I must say right away that the zones in question have not been fixed by the border troops. That is the prerogative of the USSR Council of Ministers in accordance with Article 22 of the USSR Law 'On the USSR State Border.'"

"At present, soviet organs, with the participation of the USSR KGB Border Troops Main Directorate, are taking steps to reduce the size of border zones and are simplifying the procedure for entering and settling there. A number of resolutions passed by the RSFSR Council of Ministers last year which reduced the depth of the border zone in Maritime Kray and in Chita and Murmansk Oblasts may serve as an example of this. The question of admitting the local population to rivers and bodies of water located alongside the state border has been in fact resolved. The question of the possibility of completely abolishing the border zone on the border with socialist community countries and of excluding from border zones those areas of mass recreation which are still included in such zones is being examined. This process will continue."

"As for drawing up documents regarding the right to enter border zones, the appropriate Soviet organs are establishing practical regulations on the admittance to and temporary sojourn, residence, and settlement of Soviet citizens in border zones on the basis of Article 23 of the USSR 'Law On the USSR State Border' according to procedure laid down by the USSR Council of Ministers. The border troops have no right to change these regulations. Their only task is to supervise observance of border regulations independently or jointly with internal affairs organs. Border troops are fulfilling this duty."

"Proposals are being examined on giving border zone inhabitants the right to move freely within other USSR border zones and also travel there freely on presentation of tour of duty documentation or vacation resort travel warrants without their prior endorsement in MVD organs. Other measures are also being envisaged, in particular, the right of participants in the Great Patriotic War to enter these areas on presentation of the appropriate personal identification."

Moscow Air Traffic Controllers' Dispute Drags On
PM2202150389 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 89 p 1

[Article by own special correspondent O. Karmaza under the "Regular Daily Feature" rubric: "Conflict Reaches to the Skies"; for a related report see the 16 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT pp 79-80]

[Text] What to call it? A strike? But the air traffic controllers are performing their work meticulously. A protest? But most of those I spoke with urged me not to use that word in the article: Some by reason of its mildness, others, on the contrary, because of its harshness.... Anyway, a fact is a fact: Controllers have been refusing to accept their wages at the Moscow Automated Air Traffic Control Center for almost 3 months now.

Special sessions and councils have been assembled at the center several times, at which the controllers have been advised to take the money and meet the bank and the center leadership halfway. To no avail.

The amount of money returned to the bank to date already tops half a million rubles. On first encountering the situation the bank that serves the center decided, after long hesitation, to "freeze" the money in a special deposit account, removing it thereby from circulation in the city's budget.

...Last 4 November, the controllers of the fifth team of the air traffic center—a Moscow Center subunit—decided to refuse to accept their wages and demand that the leadership of the Vnukovo enterprise and the Ministry of Civil Aviation meet their demands, which include the following: The placement of controllers' salaries in the top wage bracket; guaranteed bonuses for safe air traffic management; separation of the Moscow Center from the Vnukovo enterprise; publication of the figures and conclusions of medical investigations carried out at the center since its foundation; revision of the conditions pertaining to preferential retirement; reduction of the working week to 36 hours; increase in leave to 36 working days.

The Moscow Center leadership initially regarded the team's demands with skepticism. The collective was too small and the demands too big. However, the team's decision was soon supported by the entire center's controllers. After a while it was also backed by Moscow Center Communists at a special party meeting.

When the situation became known, a special commission was set up in the Ministry of Civil Aviation under V.M. Kurilo, deputy minister in charge of economics. Questions concerning the center's separation from Vnukovo and its switch to economic accountability from the start of the new year, 1989, were decided in a few days. The ministry hastily put R340,000 from its own reserves into the wages fund, R100,000 into the material incentives fund, and another R100,000 into the social development fund.

You might think that at this point the conflict would have been, if not solved, then at least somewhat diminished. However, it all turned out differently. The controllers continued to insist on getting their way: It was all or nothing....

The controllers soon began to be "pressured." They were warned that on the switch to new management conditions contracts would not be concluded with everyone working at the center. Some flight directors and chairmen of the controller teams' technical supervisory service were given an ultimatum: Either you accept the wages or you will be downgraded with subsequent dismissal.

An action group decided to take a final step: At the beginning of January it prepared appeals to the country's leaders. After this, on January 4, a second labor conference was held. Its decision was as follows: "Abandonment of our ultimatum is possible only in two cases: Receipt of an official response to the appeals (any response—positive or negative), or a decision by one-third of the workers (221 people) to accept the money after all."

...Maybe we shouldn't dramatize? Shouldn't there be a calm discussion of it all without undue emotion, as the ministry workers suggest?

"As far as possible," said M. Bulatov, member of the air traffic control center's labor collective council, with a gesture of sincere despair. "OK, I understand—there are some things which you really cannot rush. But some things cannot be tolerated! Here is an example. Recently I began losing the sight of one eye.... Why, I do not know. I went to the doctor, took a course of treatment—and, thank God, my sight seemed to be restored. But why had it happened? The doctor confirmed that it was due to work. But how? Whether it was the effect of radiation from the screen or stress I do not know. None of us controllers knows. Even though any amount of these things can happen, and not necessarily having to do with the eyes. How can we protect ourselves? It is no longer a question of wages or vacations but of health. Ultimately the question can be put in these terms: Whether you will be disabled by your fifties or not. We are like blind men. Everyone acknowledges that the work is harmful and excessively strenuous. But as for how to protect yourself—not a word. Even though the findings of medical studies and, therefore, the methods of protection exist. For many years there have been medical and psychological studies of the specific working conditions of the administration's air traffic controllers. But they hide these results from us. Why? An explosive question.... If the full data on the results of the studies were published, it would be clear: The controllers' work load exceeds the set norms many times over. In other words, for many years the Ministry of Civil Aviation's leadership, wittingly or not, has been urging the controllers to overtax themselves. In other words, it has been pushing them toward breakdown. I realize that there is no need to explain how this has sometimes ended. Many air disasters are still fresh in the memory...."

One things is clear today: The conflict was no chance event. It was bound to happen. If not now, then later. If not in this form, then in some other. Passions have been fueled to the limit by the prolonged waiting. It only needed a cause to bring it all to the surface.

And that came after Moscow's airports switched to economic accountability. Wages rose immediately for all services, including air traffic controllers. But not at the center. The controllers at the airport, whose whole job is to prepare planes for takeoff, guide them down, and direct them to the unloading bay—began receiving R35 more than the center's controllers, according to some figures, R25 more according to others. Where is the justice in that, Moscow center asked indignantly?

The last thing I want to do in this report is to present any categorical assessments. The problem is too serious. But at the same time, to be honest, I find it hard to forget that we are all passengers. And of course we would like to be sure that we are protected against sudden eventualities. And we are protected first and foremost by the experience and professionalism of the air traffic controllers. However, it hardly needs to be mentioned that stress does not go away so easily. And that includes for air traffic controllers....

"In principle I understand them," V.G. Shelkovnikov, chief of the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation's air traffic main administration, said. "After all, I am an air traffic controller myself. I have spent 11 years at the microphone. And believe me, I know all these 'defects' inside out. They have built up for years. Years! But no attention was paid to them. When the leadership at the ministry changed, they began to take a close look. But can that really help? Yet it did help. Not in everything, of course. There has indeed been much delay. And some things need to be resolved immediately. But not by such means as an ultimatum!"

An ultimatum, I agree, is not the best method of resolving the conflict, particularly an industrial conflict.

But what is to be done? Should they wait? But they have waited already. Should they hope that they will somehow be remembered—not forgotten—and considered? But supposing they are not remembered but are forgotten and unheeded?

New Combined Control, Auditing Organs To Be Set Up
PM1702092089 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Feb 89 p 1

[Moscow TASS correspondent B. Shestakov report: "For the Purity of Party Ranks"]

[Text] The 19th All-Union CPSU Conference adopted a decision to set up new combined control and auditing organs in the party. Such organs were formed by way of an experiment in a number of kray and oblast party organizations and in Moscow and Kiev during the past report and election campaign.

The tasks of the new party organs were discussed 10 February at a meeting between L.N. Zaykov, member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom, and members of the Moscow City Party Organization Control and Auditing Commission Presidium and chairmen of the control and auditing commissions of the capital's rayon party organizations.

A report was delivered by T.P. Arkhipova, chairman of Moscow City Party Organization Control and Auditing Commission. The meeting was addressed by B.K. Pugo, chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee; N.Ye. Kruchina, CPSU Central Committee administrator of affairs; P.Ye. Dikarev, chairman of Moscow City People's Control Committee; Yu.Ye. Averkin, chairman of Kalininskiy Rayon Party Organization Control and Auditing Commission; Ye.A. Panteleyev, first secretary of Kuybyshevskiy CPSU Raykom; V.P. Peshkov, chairman of Sverdlovskiy Rayon Party Organization Control and Auditing Commission; I.P. Lazareva, chairman of Gagarinskiy Rayon Party Organization Control and Auditing Commission; P.A. Klimov, first secretary of Sokolnicheskiy CPSU Raykom; and A.I. Rylshchikov, chairman of Pervomayskiy Rayon Party Organization Control and Auditing Commission. It was noted that the formation of control and auditing commissions is an important milestone in the implementation of the 19th CPSU Conference decisions and in the process of radical democratization of intraparty life and the revival of Leninist principles of intraparty control. The broad powers granted to control and auditing commissions and the participation of experienced party cadres in their work should help to strengthen the principles of collectivity in the leadership of party organizations, eliminate existing errors and distortions, and prevent the emergence of new ones.

L.N. Zaykov addressed the meeting. We are convinced, he said, that those elected to the control and auditing commissions—and this is what the Central Committee directed us to do—are the most authoritative communists, committed supporters of restructuring, who have high political and moral qualities and real experience of social work, enjoy the confidence of communists and nonparty people, and are capable of exercising party control in a consistent and principled manner.

The fulfillment by control and auditing commissions of the duties entrusted to them, he pointed out, will make it possible reliably to ensure guarantees against manifestations of conservatism, subjectivism, arbitrariness, and demagoguery in the city party organization and successfully wage the struggle against bureaucratic distortions in the actions of party and state cadres, against their alienation from working people, for more profound democratization, and for conditions to be created for the irreversibility of restructuring.

Questions of internal party life must be at the forefront. Control and auditing commissions must react to cases of suppression of criticism, abuses of official position, and deviations from the requirements and norms of party life and party comradeship and wage a struggle to purge the party of everyone who disgraces the title of communist. Control over the fulfillment of decisions of party and state organs by communists must be stepped up, and exactingness for observance of party and state discipline must be enhanced.

Which problems should be tackled first of all to ensure that Muscovites derive benefit from the work of the newly elected party control organs? I believe that the unconditional fulfillment of the socioeconomic program for developing the city, enhancing people's well-being, and improving living conditions must be the main area, the core, and the objective of the work.

A corresponding comprehensive territorial-sector program—"Progress-95"—has been drawn up and begun to be fulfilled. Party raykoms must boundlessly enhance the responsibility of Communist leaders for the task entrusted to them and for implementing what is planned. Otherwise we will not make progress. This must also be monitored by the control and auditing commissions.

Among the many problems that have accumulated in the city are some that the Muscovites discuss with great urgency. For instance, the question of health protection. Here a range of tasks are to be resolved, covered by the comprehensive territorial-sector program "Progress-95," in one of its main sections, "Health." Success will depend on the position adopted by communist leaders in implementing the program. The city control and auditing commission did right to include the study of this question in its plan.

Party committees and control and auditing commissions must organize control work, arrange cooperation, and distribute forces in such a way that no component of the socioeconomic programs is overlooked by the party organization. These questions must be submitted for discussion by plenary sessions of raykoms and control and auditing commissions, bureaus, and presidiums, and concrete, tangible results must be sought to improve the lives of Muscovites. This also applies to other problems, including the service sphere, the production of goods for the population, and the improvement of the ecological situation in the city. I am sure that here the party committees will work hand in hand with control and auditing commissions.

Programs for activity by the commissions should be formulated on the basis of the decisions of the rayon and city party conferences that have been held and the criticisms voiced there. The control and auditing commissions should resolutely set about examining every issue.

The standard of work will largely depend on how relations shape up right from the start between the control and auditing commissions and the party raykoms. They must be based on cooperation, and there must be no opposition on anything. Whereas the party raykom exercises political leadership, performs cadre work, and organizes the fulfillment of decisions, the control and auditing commission is called upon to expose and eliminate the causes which give rise to negative phenomena and carry out preventive work, being a checking, disciplinary organ.

The party control organs are today acquiring a fundamentally new status. Whereas only recently they worked under the leadership of the party committees and were party control commissions under their respective party committee, now they are autonomous bodies, subordinate to conferences, just as the party committees are. This is the principle on which work should be based and collaboration organized between party committees and control and auditing commissions.

In this connection let me stress again that control and auditing commissions have been given the right, within the limits of their powers, to submit to conferences their conclusions on the activity of their respective party committees, and that includes their conclusions on certain aspects of the work of party raykom and gorkom departments. These checks must be planned without delay.

The work of control and auditing commissions should be conducted in full view of Muscovites and should be a constant topic for the party press, radio, and television.

The first organizational stage in the work of control and auditing commissions has ended, organizational sessions of presidiums have taken place, work plans have been approved, and duties distributed among commission members. An interesting approach is used in organizing the work of control and auditing commissions on the basis of the principle of forming working parties made up of commission members for different areas of work: control, control and auditing, and appeals.

The chief task is to actively galvanize the elected aktiv of the commissions from the very outset. The control and auditing commissions must also preserve the nonstaff aktiv of the former party and auditing commissions and make extensive use of the right afforded them to recruit specialists to conduct checks and audits.

Only a few questions have been discussed today, L.N. Zaykov said in conclusion. Of course, new ones will arise in the future. We plan to submit them to conferences with your participation. I believe the sovreignty of the control and auditing commissions will not suffer from the joint discussion of problems, but that this will help the cause.

The chief thing is to accumulate good experience in time for the 28th party congress. I am sure that the joint work of party committees and control and auditing commissions will reveal a very important aspect of internal party relations which in many ways expresses their very essence—true party comradeship, coordination in the matter of restructuring all aspects of our life, and collectivism in all its aspects and manifestations.

A.A. Nizovtseva, deputy chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, members and candidate members of Moscow CPSU Gorkom Bureau, and first secretaries of the capital's party raykoms took part in the meeting.

Call for Party To 'Rebuff' Informals' Actions

PM1702144489 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Pooling Efforts in Restructuring: This Should Be the Party Committees' Task in Work With Independent Associations"]

[Text] A good many independent [samodeyatelnyy] associations and clubs have been set up in Kazakhstan. Their

main areas of activity reflect the wide range of interests of working people and students and people's desire to participate more actively in the process of renewing our society.

Party committees and primary party organizations are stepping up their influence on the activity of associations and clubs through Communists and Komsomol members, enlisting the members of these groups to help resolve specific tasks associated with the implementation of radical economic reform, educational work, the organization of useful leisure activities, the conservation of historical and cultural monuments, and the monitoring of the fulfillment of nature conservation measures. The movement of enthusiasts to help lonely and sick people, the disabled, and orphans merits every support. Meetings between party, soviet, and Komsomol workers and scientists and members of informal associations, in the course of which there is a frank dialogue and principled discussion of the course of restructuring, urgent socioeconomic problems, and civic duty, have become more frequent.

The people's initiative called into being youth housing complexes and cooperatives, which rapidly won recognition in the majority of oblasts of the republic. A youth initiative rallied internationalist servicemen to the cause of the military-patriotic education of the young generation. The movement to save the Aral Sea gained social content and accelerated the appearance of an important strategic document from the Soviet Government, aimed at ensuring the radical resolution of this very complex ecological problem. Many similar examples could be cited. They testify to a businesslike desire for positive changes and the independent groups' practical assistance to restructuring.

Purposeful, painstaking work by party committees and soviet organs with independent associations yields gratifying results. Sensing interest and support, independent organizations move on from organizing countless debates, and sometimes outright confrontation with official bodies, to pooling efforts to resolve specific restructuring tasks. That is what happened in Pavlodar and Alma-Ata, where party committees and soviet organs established businesslike, equal contacts with ecologists' movements.

Unfortunately, examples of such cooperation are not encountered so very frequently. Many party committees have not succeeded in organizing the systematic study of people's moods and the processes taking place in various strata of the population, especially among young people, or in taking them into account fully in organizational and ideological activity. Not knowing how to conduct well-argued polemics, persuade people, and rebuff loudmouths and demagogues, party workers and activists avoid the conferences and rallies organized by social groups and do not take part in meetings and debates. This is exploited by those who seek to give the activity of independent associations and clubs an antisocialist thrust and satisfy their personal ambition. Often because of this, by no means all party committees have organized thoughtful work to cut short and forestall negative trends in the activity of independent associations. In a number of cases party workers appear perplexed in the face of the stepping up of the activity of extremists and unable to uphold clear ideological positions in the struggle against manifestations of nationalism and chauvinism or actively and resolutely to oppose attempts by antisocialist elements to create political structures in opposition to the CPSU.

Party committees do not always have information about the ideologically harmful actions of extremist elements, actions that are objectively aimed at compromising and wrecking restructuring. Part of the ideological aktiv lacks the ability to make the distinction between the true interests of people taking part in restructuring and the aspirations of demagogues and extremists of various kinds who seek to widen democracy and glasnost for selfish purposes. Effective forms of influencing independent associations and clubs have not been found everywhere by trade union and Komsomol organizations. Many organizations of various voluntary societies and funds operate without due activeness, in isolation from the concrete interests of various population groups, especially young people. The initiative of their ordinary members often comes up against a formal, indifferent attitude on the part of leading bodies, which reduces people's social activeness and prompts them to seek opportunities to fulfill their interests in various kinds of informal associations. Scientific research into problems of involving people in public life in nontraditional ways in the conditions of deepening democratization and broad glasnost is developing too slowly.

It is easy to see the manifest desire of certain individuals from among the political demagogues and the ideologically immature section of young people to take speculative advantage of the situation taking shape in the process of democratization of society in order to satisfy political ambition and attack the social system that exists in the country. Exceptional extremism characterizes, for instance, the principles of the initiators of the formation of groups in the republic belonging to the counterrevolutionary "Democratic Union," which lays claim to the role of some kind of opposition party to the CPSU and openly formulates as its ultimate aim a change in the political system that exists in the country. With the aim of achieving their plans, they declare their readiness to "push society toward a crisis," "create seats of conflict," and organize mass disorders, and they are making every effort to bring Kazakhstan into their sphere of influence. Attempts to form "Democratic Union" branches have already been made in Alma-Ata, Karaganda, and Uralsk.

In some independent groups attempts have become more frequent to form special groups of "militants," mainly from among young people, and to bring physical and moral pressure to bear on officials, people's deputies, and party activists.

Under cover of general democratic concepts and slogans ("people's front," "democratic union," "ecological purity," and so forth), in effect structures are being forced whose leaders make no secret of their ultimate objectives—to create a system of opposition to the CPSU and give it the status of a new party with a political and ideological platform of noncommunist orientation. Supporters have begun to be nominated more frequently to labor collective councils and other elected organs.

Extremists and political demagogues, exploiting the real difficulties of restructuring processes, shortcomings in the regions' socioeconomic development, and ecological problems, seek to stimulate political and social tension in society and flood the editorial offices with letters that aim to mislead public opinion.

In the city of Temirtau in Karaganda Oblast, for instance, there is a so-called "party group of the Communist scientific movement under the CPSU Central Committee Politburo." It is not involved in any kind of scientific movement, on the contrary, it tries its best to protect and extol those members of independent organizations who are deliberately conducting subversive work.

The Soviet press is an authoritative defender of nature. But the mighty voices of the champions of ecological purity are not infrequently heard to utter provocative statements too. These statements, which are not backed up by scientific research, agitate people and give their authors the aura of misunderstood martyrs suffering for the public interest. M. Yeleusizova, deputy director of the "Kazgiprovodkhoz" institute, has begun to make frequent statements in the central press, on republican television, and in the newspapers of the capital's oblast. Basing his arguments purely on assumptions, he draws conclusions about the discharge of effluence from Lake Sorbulak in the next few days. The conclusions of authoritative experts show the opposite, but Yeleusizov continues to whip up the atmosphere. Why should he do this? His aim is purely self-seeking: to become prominent, to earn a reputation as a fighter for restructuring, to make political capital.

The growth of the mass independent movement and its dynamic politicization raise a number of tasks that require urgent resolution. Party committees must adopt additional, effective measures to cut short negative trends and neutralize them by political means. The struggle against attempts by antisocialist elements to create in the country structures in opposition to the CPSU must today be regarded as one of the most important elements in the political, ideological, and organizational work of all party committees and every party organization.

There should be a principled political assessment of the programs and practical actions of independent associations, from the viewpoint of their conformity with the objectives of the revolutionary renewal of our society. There should be energetic support for independent social organizations that actively further restructuring and the democratization of Soviet society through concrete action. At the same time it is necessary resolutely and openly, from Marxist-Leninist standpoints, to rebuff the antisocial actions of the leaders of those formations that, under cover of demagogic slogans, seek to undermine restructuring and push the masses onto a path of lawlessness, anarchy, and destabilization of the situation. Ideological and mass political work must be channeled into cultivating a high political culture among working people and developing the ability to live and work in conditions of democracy, which is not compatible with irresponsibility or indiscipline.

There should be a substantial improvement in the training and retraining of party, soviet, and ideological cadres. Following the principles of the 19th all-union party conference, particular attention must be paid to developing in the aktiv the skill of conducting political work with people and constructive, well-argued dialogue with members of independent groups. Working with the existing associations and exerting a concrete influence on them should be a very important responsibility for Communists and Komsomol members. Party committees are called upon to give a severe, uncompromising assessment of party members who deviate from the line formulated at the 27th congress and 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

The formulation of a legal basis for the formation and activity of initiative groups is becoming particularly topical. Here legal scientists, lawyers, and soviets of people's deputies should have their say. And law enforcement organs must ensure the reliable defense of the democratization process against the processes of extremist elements and must resolutely cut short their unlawful activity.

Party committees should set up groups for the prompt analysis of the processes taking place in the social life of oblasts, cities, and rayons that require intensified political influence.

There should be radical changes in the forms and methods of mass political work by party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and soviet organs in labor collectives and neighborhoods. It is necessary to ensure an enterprising and assertive approach in the formulation and resolution of the most urgent questions of socioeconomic development, ethnic relations, and ecology and active, well-argued opposition to political demagogues and opponents of restructuring during rallies and meetings held on the initiative of independent social groups.

Crucial tasks face the editorial offices of newspapers, journals, and television and radio programs. The press must ensure wide coverage of everything positive arising from restructuring and the various forms of citizens' social activeness aimed at supporting revolutionary restructuring and constructively criticizing existing

shortcomings. At the same time it is necessary to come out resolutely against group actions that are carried out without proper permission, are extremist, nationalist, and antisocialist in nature, disrupt production, and damage the interests of Soviet society, and to reveal the true face and real aspirations of their organizers. The force of the printed word must be used to reinforce in everyone's mind the wise rule that consensus always begins with understanding, that where there is unity even small things can grow, while where there is discord even the greatest disintegrates, and that where there are no common interests there cannot be unity of aims, not to speak of unity of action.

Materials arguing and expounding the CPSU's position on questions of the theory and practice of restructuring should be published systematically. The best prepared scientific forces and experienced party workers should be brought in to do this. Articles like this are highly necessary, because the inadequate study of questions concerning the increase in the party's leading role in the new historical conditions and the nature of its political leadership, the one-party and multiparty systems, and other vitally important matters are fertile soil for extremist elements, which put forward platforms alien to the socialist system.

To unite and rally all healthy forces to restructure society on Communist principles and effectively and intelligently rebuff all arrogant pretensions—that is now the task facing party committees and all the republic's Communists. And it must be tackled, without a day's, an hour's, or even a minute's delay.

Workers Provide 'Profound' Lessons About Press

PM2202102389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
17 Feb 89 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial under the rubric "Topical Theme": "Working People on the Press"]

[Text] Two evenings ago we attentively followed the TV relay of the meeting at the CPSU Central Committee with representatives of the working class. We then read the speeches by the participants and by M.S. Gorbachev in the newspapers. "Restructuring for the working class, the working class for restructuring"—these words expressed the essence of the meeting. It is hard to add anything to what was said at it, since everything that was said was pithy, enthusiastic, and profoundly committed to the success of restructuring. And this mood was not prompted by a desire to look up-to-date or by highfalutin language, of which there is more than enough in certain auditoriums and in the press. The meeting reflected the cherished ideas and feelings of the working class and its approval of party policy and the restructuring course.

Recently we workers in the mass media seem to have somewhat forgotten about working people. Articles by working people have become rarer occurrences in newspapers and magazines, and certain editorial bureaus have at times hinted that working people are incapable of thinking in a state fashion or of resolving urgent problems. We must analyze in detail how this situation could have come about. But we should not fail to ponder, for instance, on the words of S.F. Matyushchenko, grinder at the Amur Machine Building Plant. Talking about the new electoral system and the nomination of candidate deputies, he noted that he has observed that preference is given to the intelligentsia, employees, and technicians. "Some people have even stated," to quote his words, "that the forthcoming First Congress of USSR People's Deputies is not a congress of production frontrankers. Workers should stick to their machine tools: Only the intelligentsia, such people claim, is capable of resolving matters of state."

Taking the rostrum at the CPSU Central Committee, working people talked about the problems of everyday life. About the most urgent matters. About the things hindering restructuring and preventing us from working better. They made suggestions about rectifying matters.

They spoke frankly, in worker fashion, without looking over their shoulder at the presidium—as was the case in the past. Let us recall a few statements—although, clearly, you will be familiar with them. Steelworker V.I. Naumov admitted that restructuring in Magnitka is proceeding at a snail's pace. One of the main reasons for this is that workers have not been made interested or taught to take care of their work and keep tabs on material resources. He and his comrades do not yet feel themselves masters of their enterprise. "All of us, myself included, have gotten used to working in the old style," Volgograder A.Ye. Aliferenko said. Leasing, subcontracting, and cooperatives are words that crop up all the time nowadays. Giving credit to the new phenomena engendered by restructuring, the workers also talked about the froth it has produced.

Cooperatives are useful. They are expected to help overcome shortages and improve the services sphere. But cooperatives have also produced many problems. Young skilled cadres are leaving enterprises, lured by easy money. Cooperative prices are exorbitant. Another reason people are dissatisfied with them is that from the outset cooperative members and workers at state enterprises have been working under unequal conditions.

"We're all in favor of having a rule-of-law state," A.M. Korolev, lathe operator team leader at "Uralmash," said. "We have indeed been given many rights now, but these rights are often exploited by all kinds of demagogues. They talk, hold rallies, and take no responsibility."

Here is what N.P. Nezhdanov, team leader at the "Megiongazstroy" Trust, said: "You read the newspapers and watch TV and see our leading economists stressing that restructuring will work when genuine economic accountability and leases are up and running. So perhaps we ought to give them the opportunity to tackle the problem in specific areas!"

Pondering the speeches by the participants in the Central Committee meeting, we mass media workers cannot fail to ask ourselves the question: Why were very many sensible ideas, suggestions, and concern for the fate of restructuring voiced with such force at the Central Committee meeting when they had previously been hardly noticeable in the newspapers—and then only rarely? PRAVDA journalists are also asking themselves this question.

We call our publications a forum for nationwide public opinion, but why do ordinary working people feature in this forum so rarely?

V.F. Litvinov, milling machine operator at the Voronezh Heavy Excavator Production Association, stated bluntly and frankly: "In my view, our publications carry too many shallow and contradictory items. Are we not forgetting that, as Lenin put it, newspapers are not just collective propaganda and agitation workers, they are collective organizers too?"

Alas, we had been forgetting. Among journalists and in a whole range of interviews Lenin's definition of the role of a party newspaper as a tool of socialist building had virtually been forgotten. Even certain editors and party members seemed to avoid it for fear of being tagged reactionaries. Yet it is those very editors who have used their pages to emphasize their "special" role in restructuring and to propagate the myth that there are newspapers "in the vanguard of restructuring" and others that are "conservative newspapers."

The time for democracy through rallies is over; it is high time for practical work. However, some of the mass media have clung on too long to the period of rallies—those were the words of participants in the meeting at the CPSU Central Committee. They also reflect the public opinion that we PRAVDA journalists can sense from our readers' letters.

How are we press workers reacting to these words in our practical work? What should we be doing? There is food for thought here in reacting to justifiable criticism.

It is a question of using the new quality of the press achieved over the last few years to return in the most resolute fashion to the current problems of restructuring and areas of front-ranking experience. In other words, in accordance with the times in which we live and with the tasks of restructuring we should eschew stinging articles that in no way tally with the positions of principled party-minded and—above all—constructive criticism. The economic and political reforms, scientific and technical progress, the housing and food problems, and the services sphere are the major points dictated by the present day.

We can and should really value, cherish, and fight for the experience of working people and their judgments on the progress of restructuring. These ideas as applied to the mass media were what came out of the meeting at the CPSU Central Committee. Journalists should visit worker collectives more often and become familiar with their opinions. And under no circumstances should working people be crudely shouted down. Quite honestly, we are ashamed of our IZVESTIYA colleagues who, for instance, in their issue of 2 days ago in a note from the editorial bureau—that is, on behalf of the editorial collegium and the newspaper's leadership—literally gave a lecture on morality to K. Butko, an arc welder from Krasnoyarsk and a principled Communist. For what reason? In a discussion on Communist honor and ethics he made mention in a very kindly tone of a former director but... "dared" to add that the director should not have paid for a ministerial banquet even on the orders of the party kraykom.

We repeat that the comments about the press at the CPSU Central Committee meeting were profound and timely. Let us draw specific lessons and fundamental conclusions from them. And let us cherish forever the opinions of working people.

Legal Specialist Urges Lifting Church Restrictions

LD2002194389 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 20 TASS—A Soviet legal scientist has called for lifting many of the current restrictions of the activity of religious organizations, including constraints on religious instruction to minors.

Dr. Yuriy Rozenbaum of the Academy of Sciences' Institute of State and Law was commenting in a TASS interview on the need to prepare a freedom of conscience act which will reflect new realities in the relationship between the state and the church.

One possible version of the law has been drafted in Rozenbaum's institute and published in the Russian-language journal "SOVIET STATE AND LAW."

Recalling the history of relations between the state and the church in the Soviet Union, the scientist said that the January 20, 1918, government decree in Russia on the separation of the church from the state and of the school from the church proclaimed freedom of conscience and defined its principal guarantees.

The difficult times of the civil war and Josef Stalin's claim that the class struggle escalated along with progress in the building of socialism led to departures from Lenin's principles, to tightly regimented education and activities of believers' organizations, to limitations on the clergy's rights and to crackdowns, Rozenbaum said.

Now that all repressive policies against the church and believers have been denounced and justice and legality are being restored, it is advisable, he said, to remove limitations on the activity of religious organizations and give them the right to be involved in public affairs—without interfering in the affairs of the state and public education.

"It is expedient to lift restructions on the religious education of minors, in particular to give religious assocations the possibility to organize such studies in their houses of worship.

"This education must, of course, be strictly voluntary and not violate the legitimate rights of parents and children," Rozenbaum continued.

Many religions have different rules for their faithful to abide by in everyday life. The state finds it hard to take into account the particular rules of the adherents of every faith but it is careful not to infringe on their rights.

On that theme, the issue of exemption of some believers from military service was debated.

"This is a serious problem and should be studied carefully," Rozenbaum comments. "The 1918 decree allowed for replacing one civic duty with another, by a court decision. If really needed, this provision can be restored."

"But is it really needed? It is essential to find out who specifically and for what reasons makes these exemption requests. Is this done for religious or other motives? and how widespread is this practice?

"If these cases are numerous, the issue should, in my view, find a legal solution on universal military service," the scientist said.

Freedom of Conscience Bill Draft Discussed

LD1602044289 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—A public advisory expert group at the Soviet Government's Council for Religious Affairs has held a regular meeting in Moscow to discuss issues connected with the drafting of a freedom of conscience bill, a TASS correspondent has learned.

The draft will include clauses for providing conditions for the active participation of every person, including believers, in public life and update legal norms concerning religion and the performance of rites.

Along with legal scientists, the work involves theologians and other members of the churches and religious associations in this country.

The chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs, Konstantin Kharchev, asked commission members and other participants in the meeting to make suggestions regarding the draft in the works, which will be taken into account before submitting the document to nationwide discussion.

RSFSR Doctors Sacked for Spread of HIV Virus

LD1402200889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] At a collegium of the RSFSR Ministry of Health in Moscow today, the question of the infection of children with the immune-deficiency virus at a republican hospital in the town of Elista was considered. Eleonora Alekseyevna Negovitsina, RSFSR deputy minister of health, acquainted members of the collegium and journalists with the conclusions of a Health Ministry commission.

[Begin Negovitsina recording] As you know, in the Kalmyk ASSR, in republican children's and isolation hospitals, 28 children and 5 mothers became infected with the HIV virus, which they caught in the hospital, and during a further investigation 36 carriers of the virus were found altogther. The source of infection was a 3-month-old male child who was being treated in the chest department of the republican children's hospital in May of 1988. The parents were discovered to be carriers of the HIV virus during laboratory investigations. During 1980-81, the father carried out military service in an African country. During her pregnancy, before the birth, the mother was not examined to see if she was carrying the virus.

The spread of infection among other children took place intravenously. Middle rank medical personnel, in conditions uncontrolled by the doctors, carried out intravenous injections, using subclavian catheters, and using the same syringe.

The situation was exacerbated because of serious shortcomings in the treatment of the children who were prescribed widespread blood transfusions for no good reason; they were also given blood preparations and numerous injections of glucose and other medicines. Suffice it to say that on average each child received about 400 injections over a 17-day period. In addition to this, in the children's republican hospital the presterilization processing of syringes was carried out badly. The routine method of sterilization was blatantly flouted. As laboratory investigations showed, in 2 percent of tests of syringes and needles, residues of blood were found. In 13 percent of cases medical instruments were not sterile. These violations also led to a high sickness rate involving the hepatitis B virus among the children who were at childrens' hospitals for treatment.

How could such a thing happen? How could such a low professional level, medical standard, and irresponsibility occur? [passage omitted]

The chief doctor of the republican childrens' hospital and his deputy have been removed from their duties. The procuracy is conducting an investigation.

Firings, Mass Testing Follow AIDS Outbreak

PM2102144989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[S. Tutorskaya report: "Criminal Negligence Is More Dangerous Than the Virus"]

[Text] A session of the RSFSR's Emergency Antiepidemic Commission has been held. The situation in Kalmykia was on the agenda.

Today, V. Pokrovskiy, president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, said 29 young children are infected with the AIDS virus. The antibodies of this virus have also been observed in six of their mothers. Quite remarkably, in terms of the overall picture almost 70 percent of those infected do not fall into the traditional "risk group."

Nor does the husband of one of the infected women fall into this group. He worked in an African country 8 years ago. Only now has the decision been made for general testing of specialists who have worked abroad. The person in question was not ill and evidently did not know that he was a source of danger, primarily to his family.

Academician V. Pokrovskiy of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and A. Potapov, RSFSR minister of health, stated that both the number of infected children and information on the source of infection are inconclusive. Mass testing of large groups of Kalmykia inhabitants is under way. The tragedy in Elista, N. Trubilin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, who conducted the session, said, is an extraordinary event. Women and children were infected within the walls of a medical establishment to which they had entrusted their lives and health.

Specialist epidemiologists cited lack of organization, failure to observe elementary procedures, and criminal negligence by medical personnel as the primary causes of what had happened.

There was a long and serious discussion (the session lasted for 3 hours) about the fact that the USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry and the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems are not fulfilling the task of producing disposable syringes.

The situation is serious. It cannot be rectified quickly. Meanwhile disposable syringes and blood transfusion systems will have to be bought abroad once again.

But, in addition to the understandable bitterness and the questions about how this is possible (we fly in space, but we cannot make syringes), this was one more "accursed" question posed by those leading the commission's session. It is well known that the AIDS virus has very low heat-resistance and perishes at 60 degrees. That is: If medical personnel observe all the working rules, the transfer of the infection within a hospital is impossible. This accident would not have happened if, in adopting a resolution to combat AIDS, senior officials had seriously resolved to bring our medical establishments at least up to the standard of good turn-of-the century hospitals. The fault for delay in this important work lies with the public health organizers. Many have been relieved of their posts and the following were severely punished: M. Manzhiyev, chief doctor at the republic hospital; L. Tapkin, Kalmykia's minister of public health; and others.

Many of the autonomous republic's leaders demonstrated carelessness and complacency. They were punished, as were A. Gracheva and K. Akulov, RSFSR deputy ministers of public health.

Those who suffered innocently will be given material assistance. Children and adults infected with the AIDS virus are under observation in Moscow. Six research laboratories and a 50-bed clinic are to be opened in the RSFSR.

Many legal and organizational aspects of the fight against AIDS have still not been formulated properly. Life requires that they be resolved without delay.

Problems With Moscow Health Care Examined

PM1602150189 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Moscow TASS correspondent B. Shestakov: "How to 'Heal' the Capital's Medicine"]

[Excerpts] Much has been done in recent years to develop Moscow's health care. In accordance with party and government decisions and the city's "Health" targeted program, urgent steps have been taken to expand the network of hospitals and polyclinics and to improve preventive work and the provision of medical services for working people. At the same time, the 27th conference of the capital's party organization noted, the problems which have accumulated here are generating acute dissatisfaction among Muscovites.

A thorough discussion of these problems and ways of resolving them took place 9 and 10 February during a visit to major scientific and practical centers of the capital's health care by L.N. Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom. V.I. Pokrovskiy, president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, was with him. [passage omitted]

The CPSU Central Committee secretary visited the "Eye Microsurgery" intersectorial scientific and technical complex. S.N. Fedorov, its general director, noted in his report that the history and present day of the intersectorial scientific and technical complex graphically demonstrate the advantages of emancipated initiative and fair distribution according to labor. [passage omitted]

L.N. Zaykov had meetings with the party and economic aktiv of two of the capital's leading medical institutions. The congress of USSR people's deputies will meet this

year, he said. The Moscow city CPSU organization is paying special attention to the work and problems of the different labor collectives and the study of the specific feature and conditions of their labor and existing wishes. That is why my task as a party worker and candidate deputy is to learn about as many fresh proposals, arguments, and opinions as possible.

These meetings of ours can obviously be assessed as a dialogue on urgent problems between the candidate USSR people's deputy and representatives of the medical public resolving the humane tasks of protecting Soviet people's health.

The recent 27th city party conference discussed virtually all avenues of the work of the Moscow party organization. It was noted that the capital's communists and working people, like all Soviet people, have actively joined in the process of revolutionary transformations and are seeking to turn the ideas of restructuring into specific deeds. Their activity is based on the implementation of the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th All-Union Party Conference, the renewal of all aspects of Muscovites' lives, and the acceleration of the capital's socioeconomic development.

New approaches were defined toward the leadership of the city as a national economic and social complex. The general scheme for the management of Moscow's economy on the territorial-sectorial principle is being introduced. The "Progress-95" program is designed to coordinate the work of all links of the city economy and to ensure their proportionate development.

Questions connected with providing Muscovites with housing, food, and consumer goods and with the work of the city economy, transport, and health services have acquired a political nature. The key to the solution of these problems lies in the implementation of economic reform, the renewal of the entire system of production relations, and qualitative changes in the style and methods of work.

As for protecting the health of Muscovites and the development of the capital's health service, we are worried by a number of serious problems. They include primarily the unsatisfactory indicators of the population's health, the feeble material and technical base and equipping of the city's medical institutions (60 percent of the preventive treatment and half of the pharmaceutical institutions are in need of capital repair), the shortage of 9,000 doctors and about 23,000 middle echelon specialists, the bad situation with regard to environmental conservation, and the lack of serious, comprehensive attention toward questions of forming a healthy life style among Muscovites. We can also include the inadequate coordination of the actions of the city and departmental health care and medical scientific research institutes and centers. There are many medical science institutions in the capital yet they study to an intolerably small extent the problems of protecting the health of Muscovites and rendering practical assistance to the city's health care. The propaganda of a healthy way of life has been unsatisfactorily organized.

The party and government pay great attention to the development of Moscow's health care. Two relevant CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions have been adopted. Additional appropriations have been earmarked for wages for medical workers and for the capital repair of treatment institutions and capital investments in this sphere have been trebled. Some 8 union ministries have been enlisted to the construction and repair of hospitals and polyclinics. Various departments, including defense industry enterprises where, as disarmament progresses, large production capacities are being released, are being enlisted to satisfy the needs of medicine.

The Moscow CPSU Gorkom Bureau has examined the question of modernizing 10 medical in-patient institutions (the S.P. Botkin and N.I. Pirogov hospitals, the N.V. Sklifosovskiy first aid institute, two children's hospitals, and a number of other institutions). In January questions of the consolidation of the city's health care and the improvement of medical aid to Muscovites were discussed at a meeting of the party and economic aktiv. A plan of specific measures was elaborated on the basis of its results.

A decision was taken to change the status of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Health Administration: The post of USSR deputy minister of health and chief of the city health service is being introduced. This will make it possible to resolve all problems of the capital's medicine directly, bypassing superfluous stages.

It was noted at the meetings that the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and the Moscow Gorispolkom are helping not only health care but also medical science in the solution of complex questions. Large appropriations, including hard currency ones, are being earmarked. Medical workers' social questions are being actively resolved. That is why Muscovites today have the right to expect from health care workers a greater return and real positive advances in medical services for the city with its population of many millions.

L.N. Zaykov answered numerous questions from doctors and specialists. Specific instructions were given aimed at resolving the problems of the two scientific centers [the all-union oncological scientific center and the eye microsurgery complex]. [passage omitted]

Afghan Veterans Entitled to Special Health Care

LD2002223489 Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 20 TASS—Some 25,000 officers and men who returned home after fulfilling their internationalist duty in Afghanistan, and members of their families will annually undergo free treatment at trade union health-building centres in the USSR.

This announcement was made today by Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the USSR Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU), at a meeting with internationalist soldiers in the Central Council of Trade Unions. The meeting was attended by top functionaries of trade unions and representatives of associations of internationalist soldiers from over 100 cities, districts and regions of the Soviet Union. Meeting participants discussed various aspects of social and legal protection of Soviet "Afghan" soldiers.

The AUCCTU chairman told the gathering that the Soviet trade unions adopted a special programme of aid to young people who fulfilled their internationalist duty in Afghanistan. They are given aid in job placements, improvement of housing conditions and settlement of other problems of every-day life. A network of rehabilitation centres is being set up for former soldiers, and conditions are being provided for their treatment and recreation at health centres. The Soviet trade unions took a decision to open rehabilitation treatment centres at three union health-holiday institutions in Uzbekistan, Dnepropetrovsk region and Krasnodar territory.

Shalayev pointed out that Soviet people display special anxiety over the destiny of servicemen taken prisoner in Afghanistan. "We shall do our utmost to set them free and return home," said the leader of the Soviet trade unions.

Radio Starts Commercial Advertising Service

LD2102165789 Moscow TASS in English 1934 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 20 TASS—Soviet radio has set up an advertising service called "New Market". It takes orders from foreign firms and individuals to air over the Soviet radio network advertising of their goods as well as proposals on establishment of business contacts with Soviet enterprises and organisations, its head Armen Oganesyan told TASS.

"We hope," he said, "that business quarters both in the socialist countries and in the Western states seeking to develop mutually advantageous cooperation with Soviet organisations will be interested in our service."

The hopes of the "New Market" sponsors are based on the growing popularity of transmissions by the World Service of commercial broadcasting in English, which was organised in Moscow late last year. The 15-minute broadcasts are aired four times a week. Transmissions based on advertising of Soviet goods and technologies drew a favourable response in various countries. In turn, some foreign firms proposed to pay in convertible currency for advertising of their goods in the USSR. "This is how the idea of 'New Market' was born," said Armen Oganesyan

Agricultural

* Ligachev Addresses Food Production Seminar 6 Feb

WA18240043a Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 7 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN report: "Using Urban Resources To Develop the Agro-industrial Complex"; for further reportage on Ligachev's and Nikonov's attendance at the Kharkov food production conference, see page 86 of the 16 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT]

[Text] (TASS)—The problems of strengthening the Party's influence on developing the food complex and enhancing the role of the cities and industrial centers in improving the population's supply of food products are at the center of attention of the All-Union seminar which began in Kharkov on 6 February.

Comrades Ye. K. Ligachev, V. P. Nikonov, V. V. Shcherbitskiy and A. V. Vlasov took part in this effort.

First secretaries of party gorkoms and chairmen of gorispolkoms of oblast, kray, and republican centers; directors of a number of ministries and departments; and chairmen of the mass information media were invited to the meeting. Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Ye. K. Ligachev opened the seminar. He emphasized that restructuring's most urgent and specialized task is that of providing the population with enough food. A CPSU Central Committee Plenum will soon be held to work out the Party's agrarian policy at the present stage.

The measures aimed at improving the population's food supply include the active participation of our cities in developing the economy's agrarian sector. A number of positions in the relationships between the city and the countryside genuinely need to be restructured. The point is that right now we need to make greater use than ever before of our cities' industrial, scientific and technical, and intellectual potential to solve rural problems, to renovate the processing industry and, finally, to substantially improve the population's supply of food products.

This means that we need to implement an entire complex of cardinal measures. The first order of business is to re-equip our kolkhozes and sovkhozes, to help build up the peasants socially, to set up modern food product storage facilities, to expand greenhouse enterprises, develop subsidiary private farms and set up a leading food industry. A great deal has been isolated in the city. In addition, the city needs to put more effort into developing culture and education in the countryside and forming new detachments of rural intelligentsia.

This needs to be done in an up-to-date fashion, taking the economic and public interests of the urban and rural labor collectives into account. There must be price parity for industrial and agricultural output and an equal exchange between the city and the village. They need to

circulate goods between themselves in full-fledged fashion. All possible aid should be provided, taking into account the features peculiar to rural areas when creating working and living conditions equal to those in the city.

The speaker noted that there can be no doubt that along with the other measures to develop the economy's agrarian sector, the social aspect of the cities' efforts in this direction will add considerably to the food on city dwellers' tables and will boost the rural economy as well. On the political plane this in turn will have a positive effect on society's stability and on strengthening the affinity of the working class, the peasantry, and the intelligentsia, which is the foundation of our system.

Of course, under our present circumstances the "city-to-country" problem requires new approaches of a different scope and a different style of party work. We need to inject more vigor in attracting and interesting the urban collectives in this matter and to make more widespread use of existing local experience. There is experience available in our country including in many cities such as those in the Kharkov and Belgorod Oblasts. The problem consists in studying this experience thoughtfully and, taking local conditions into account, applying it to the food situation.

V. P. Nikonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee then addressed the seminar.

He said that our economy's agrarian sector has been seriously lagging behind the other sectors of the economy, particularly the processing and storage industry. Nor has the sphere which manufactures the means of production for the agro-industrial complex come up to the required level in either the quality of its machines or their overall capability for being manufactured in complete sets. The social problems of our rural centers have grown very complicated and difficult, and there are other problems here as well.

You are aware that the upcoming plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee plans to take up the CPSU's agrarian policy at the restructruing stage. The goals, and the ways and means of achieving them are being painstakingly worked out right now. Large groups of scientists, farm managers, leading designers, cooperative personnel, and lessees are participating in this effort. This meeting is also part of the plan to prepare for the Plenum.

How many different ways are there for cities and industrial centers to participate in improving the population's food supply? I refer first of all to the experience of the people of Kharkov, who are hosting our seminar.

The Kharkov Oblast is one of the country's typical industrial regions, with almost 80 percent of its population living in cities. Just three years ago, the oblast was receiving milk and meat subsidies. Frequent disruptions in the supply of fruits and vegetables products had their effect. The oblast party organization was able to turn the affair into the proper channel.

The average annual volume of work completed by the oblast's industrial enterprises in the countryside was in excess of R60 million. They have also set up a storage center for agricultural output here, as well as full complements of improved quality small-scale mixed feed mills and a great deal more, but the work done by the agricultural enterprises themselves is doubtless of the highest caliber as well.

Labor productivity in our villages has increased 17 percent. Over the last three years 64,000 tonnes of meat and 180,000 tonnes of milk have been purchased above the plan. This has also made it possible to change over to self-support. The experience of the Belgorod party organization has evoked a great deal of interest. Here, they are making particularly vigorous use of the cities' capabilities for renovating and re-equipping food enterprises and improving rural workers' social and domestic conditions.

Whereas the cities invested R12 million in the countryside during the 10th 5-year plan period, they have invested R180 million over the last three years. Food resources have increased substantially.

Many other oblasts, where the city and the countryside have established excellent collaborative efforts, have planned notable positive changes in the population's food supply. In this regard I would like to mention the party organizations and the councils of people's deputies of Brest, Vitebsk, Omsk, Orel, Tomsk, Saratov, Tselinograd, and Naberezhnyye Chelny.

However, with regard to the work of many gorkoms of the party and ispolkoms of city soviets, they have still not made it their business to deal with the problems of expanding suburban agricultural zones, and their relations with rural centers continue to be structured by the pressure of the situation.

Right now, voices are ringing out that industry is on cost accounting, and the plans make no provision for this, etc. The country's agricultural sector also operates on a cost-accounting basis. But unfortunately there has not yet been a year when the normative provision of the plans for producing agricultural output would have exceeded 70 percent, and the remaining reserves have been incorporated into the calculations for good weather. In short, the agro-industrial complex needs help from cost-accounting as well, and there are many already-approved methods of mutually advantageous collaboration.

The CPSU Central Committee has already approved the experiment in joint cooperative activity conducted by 12 industrial, construction, reclamation and other enterprises, and organizations of the Vladimir Oblast's Gus-Khurstalnyy Rayon with the large-scale, but still incompletely-constructed Gusevskiy Sovkhoz. The sovkhoz uses its above-plan output to sell 30 kg of meat per

worker to these enterprises and the industrial enterprises are completing construction of social and domestic facilities and processing enterprises for the sovkhoz. And the basis for this is cost-accounting.

Right now there are many such examples. The association of the Adazhi agricultural firms with industrial and other enterprises is making it possible this year to supply the city with over 25,000 tonnes of potatoes processed into 11 types of finished products. A similar association was set up in Pyatigorsk and in many areas in the vicinity of Moscow.

The country presently has over 300 agricultural combines and firms in operation, but we also have 2,176 cities plus almost 4,000 urban-type communities, where about 190 million persons live. It is not in theory (as yet we have no such theory), but in practice where we must seek and introduce procedures for the most intimate interaction between the cities and the villages—as this is where one of restructuring's primary objectives is beginning to appear.

Most of the production work in our country is done in industrial manufacturing shops and on 20,000 rural subsidiary farms. They have been given the task of producing some 30 kg of meat and 50 kg of milk per worker in addition to the state stocks, and with increasing the vegetable and berry figures twofold.

Over the last 2 years, the subsidiary farms have notably improved their work, and both the experience they have gained and the material base they have set up have also had an effect. But they are still far from having carried out the tasks set before them. On the average for the country, these farms have produced a total of 7 kg of meat, 10 kg of milk, 5 kg of vegetables, and 3 potatoes per worker.

The best farms, which can be found in various regions, show what can be achieved by having a serious attitude to the matter at hand. For example, last year the Apatit Association's Industriya subsidiary farm in the Murmansk Oblast produced R12 million in agricultural output and sold 47 kg of dressed-weight meat, 547 kg of milk, 1,530 kg of eggs, and 45 kg of greenhouse vegetables per worker. The Gogoslovskiy Aluminum Plant farm in the Sverdlovsk Oblast produced 41 kg of meat, 415 kg of milk, and 63 kg of vegetables per worker. If all the plants in this industrial zone had subsidiary farms like these—and there is enough land to do so—the zone would have been completely self-sufficient long ago, but instead, it is still one of the most vociferous dependents.

Some of our comrades feel that the agrarian question is a temporary matter for industry and, in large part, for the cities. I cannot concur with this view.

Look more closely at the resources your city has available for food production, and it becomes clear that to simply discard them, either today or tomorrow, is economically harmful and ignorant. In Belgorod you can see how they work with waste food, converting it into valuable feed, and how much additional output they produce in doing so. Our country produces some 10-12 million tonnes of resources annually from this type of feed. This translates to 500,000-600,000 tonnes of pork, or 10 percent of total pork production.

We have everything we need to make full use of these feeds—excellent processing plant and shop designs, special-purpose transport, and opportunities for organizing cooperatives. What we need is to care and pay attention.

Many other opportunities for developing subsidiary farms are not being fully used. Take fish farming for example. I am not going to analyze this problem in depth; instead, I will only cite a few facts. There are 490 thermal electric power stations operating in our country, and only 1 out of 10 of them are raising fish in their warm waters.

If the per capita fresh-water fish consumption in Rostov-na-Donu, Krasnodar, Belov, Volgograd, and Kherson amounts to 10-11 kg, it is less by a factor of 5-6 in Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Kazan, Yoshkar-Ole, and Ulyanovsk.

The enterprises of the Gorkiy Oblast have long intended to do so, and are now making quite a good living raising fish. This project was initiated by the gorkoms of the party, who were supported by the ministry. A fish farm is under construction at the Sormovskaya TETS, and is rated to produce 1,200 tonnes of marketable fish. The same thing could be done at the Avtozavodskaya and Dzerzhinskaya TETS's. This already comprises a respectable increment to the food available for the table. Doing everything the Kharkovians did would bring about a ninefold increase—up to 200,000 tonnes—in the production of products which are in great demand.

After the contrived restrictions and prohibitions were removed, the work to set up gardening associations and cooperatives was begun. The country had 50,000 of them in operation at the beginning of 1988. In just the past 3 years, 3.5 million families have obtained gardening plots.

The practice of many years shows that not only is this a healthy family leisure activity which allows people to commune with nature, but it is also a large-scale producer of guaranteed-quality food products.

These garden-lovers bring in an average of 100 kg of fruit and berries, 120-130 kg of vegetables, and over 230 kg of potatoes from each plot. Some 2 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables and 4.6 million tonnes of potatoes were harvested in the country overall. This is quite a solid addition to public production. Collective market gardens are being actively expanded in Volgograd, Lipetsk, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Orenburg, Cherkassy, Uralsk, the Mordovian and Tuva ASSR's, and in the Kazakh and Kirgiz SSR's.

However, not everyone has paid enough heed to meeting the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers concerning this question.

For example, in the Yaroslavl Oblast, where there are over 80,000 hectares of unused land around the cities, 10,000 families have not yet obtained plots. The situation is roughly the same in Novgorod, Kamensk, Penza, Vladimir, Perm, Chelyabinsk, and in Belorussia and Lithuania.

But allocating plots is only half the task. People need help in preparing them. Here, too, all is not yet in order. In the last 3 years, the industrial and construction ministries have manufactured a total of only 270,000 gardening cottages, or less than 8 percent of the demand. Of the 200,000 motorized power plants applied for through USSR Central Union of Consumers' Societies, only 8,500 were sent to the gardners. Production of these implements was disrupted by machine builders in Kharkov, Minsk, and Kutaisi. For several years, USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources has only made promises to meet the demand for the small wind-power plants. Many of the unsolved problems are Gosagroprom's fault.

Fruit nurseries are doing very poor work. Hundreds of kilometers have to be walked to care for each seedling. With few exceptions the country has practically no meristematic laboratories for growing planting stock for berry crops, nor does it have vegetable nursery complexes.

Here is one more small example. We, at the same time as Poland, purchased 600-tonne source complexes from Holland for raising mycelium mushrooms. In 1987, Poland used them to produce 40,000 tonnes of mushrooms, while we produced 1,500 tonnes. Last year, having set up a small scientific production system, we boosted our yield to 8,000 tonnes. But there is no reason why we can't increase our production a hundredfold!

I want to finish talking about fruit and vegetables with two major problems which will not be solved without your initiative and responsibility. They are the forced expansion of greenhouse farms and completion of construction of centers for storing and preparing vegetable products for sale or processing.

In recent years, our country has produced 29 million tonnes of vegetables, including 1.2 million in greenhouses, or 103 and 6.8 kg per capita respectively.

Less generally, in the winter and early spring we bring in half the hothouse vegetables called for by the established per capita consumption quota.

There is positive experience which is worth repeating in all our cities. I refer to Lvov's experience. The Provisen Sovkhoz was chosen as the site to set up a joint stock company. Most of the shares were purchased by the city's industrial enterprises and the farm's workers. This year will witness the completion of 20 hectares of hothouses, with 80 hectares slated to be put into operation in 3 years.

At yields of 30 and more kg of vegetables per square meter, these combines earn profits of 65-70 percent. The labor collectives obtain plenty of vegetables all year long. The investments will be recouped in 5-6 years and ahead there are 15-20 more years of efficient operation and deductions.

For the past 3 years the rates of construction of storage facilities and centers has increased almost twofold, but many cities have not yet managed to solve this problem. According to the standards, 135 kg of vegetables, fruit, and potatoes per capita are supposed to be put into long-term storage. This calls for storehouse capacities of 26 million tonnes. We have 15.4 million tonnes in storage capacities, or 60 percent of what is needed. The result? Temporary storage structures, spoilage of 3 million tonnes of output, and poor quality produce on store counters. The situation is particularly bad in Kursk, Kalinin, Tula, Saransk, Barnaul, and in cities in the Central Asian and Transcaucasian republics.

The fact that some of the centers which were built were not provided with controllable microclimates, that their level of mechanization is low, and that they have no processing shops is also a serious drawback. Even so, a positive experiment has been conducted. For example, the so-called "vegetable factories" right here near Kharkov. People from different cities and oblasts travel to Vitebsk, where city-dwellers and farms in suburban villages have joined together into the Dvina Agricultural Firm. The vegetables are grown, processed, and sold by the same people, and the setting up of the material base and the commercial facilities is treated as a common concern.

As of this year new structures are being added to the traditional structures from which the builders erected the original storehouses. Here in the Ukraine (in the cities of Lozovaya and Antratsit), construction of large-scale production facilities for manufacturing prefabricated 2-million square meter light-weight metal storehouses is practically completed, and Tambov is building 1 million-square-meter storehouses.

The cities of Alatyre in the Chuvash ASSR and Zainsk in the Tatar ASSR have put large-scale refrigerator and freezer manufacturing plants into operation. By using combined innovations, they can double the volumes of their storage facilities.

The other side of the problem involves placement. The best results are achieved by building small fruit and vegetable canneries on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. In the Crimean Oblast, in addition to 5 large-scale state plants, 143 kolkhoz and sovkhoz shops have been built, and this adds up to plus 145 million containers of various canned foods in an assortment of over 200 different products.

The production capacities of small canneries in Moldavia, Dagestan, North Osetia, in the Lipetsk Oblast, and the Altay Kray are increasing. Unfortunately, there are

still few of these facilities, and the country needs to increase canned goods production in the years ahead from 23 billion standard containers to 40 billion.

This is why Astrakhan—where they know how to grow a great many products, and spoil a great deal as well, and where they have been building a cannery for 11 years and there is no end of the job in sight—cannot be spoken of without indignation.

The speaker then dwelled on problems related to producing and processing dairy products, their quality and assortment.

Last year, we produced 106.5 million tonnes of milk, or 24 percent of the world level.

The experience of the Novocherkassk, Tbilisi, Belgorod, Orlovsk, and Podolsk dairy plants suggests that dairies are obligated to use waste-free production methods in their operation, thereby producing 60 and more products from a tonne of milk at a cost of R320-360. These are indicators for the dairies named above. At the same time some 8-12 different dairy items show up on store shelves in Kemerovo, Chelyabinsk, Yaroslavl, Kuybyshev, Krasnoyarsk, Odessa, and Nikolayev. There are more than 1,500 such cities and the remaining assortment comes to only 3 to 4 items.

We have long and assiduously trained dairy industry employees as to what the best dairies make and do, and how they do it. If we are talking about gorkom secretaries, then you, too, have all been there and have given high ratings to the labor collectives' production methods and their diligence. And what better place to repeat this?

If managers involve themselves with nothing but discussions during the years of restructuring, rather than with organizing practical affairs, then we won't get far. Last year throughout the country, some 750,000 tonnes of the animal protein in skim milk, buttermilk, and whey was not put into food products. The situation is the same for milk sugar. We have been working on perfecting membrane technology for 15 years with no progress.

Our country is now in the process of constructing small-scale family cheese dairies. They are in operation in the Novosibirsk and Voronezh oblasts and will soon be put into operation in the Kalinin and Lipetsk oblasts. Enterprises affiliated with Ministry of Medium Machinery Manufacture and other departments have been brought in to build the equipment. This problem will be solved in a maximum of 3 years.

We must not keep silent about another problem, which is becoming increasingly socially significant.

I am referring to children's food products. Here, only a little over 30 percent of the demand is being met. To my and your shame before the people, it has to be said that not a single city in Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kirgiz, or Tadjikistan has initiated production of the most valuable liquid milk products for children, and the same is true of most of the cities in the RSFSR.

The capacities for producing milk and fruit-vegetable products for children are being used in very poor fashion in Azov, Odessa, Tikhoretsk, and Sibay, where special plants have been built for just this purpose. The result is that the country purchases imports of 16,000 tonnes of these products every year.

A great deal needs to be done to develop and re-equip the meat-processing industry. One-quarter of our meat combines were built 40 and more years ago. About 200 enterprises still have no sewage purification works, many of them use water from outdoor reservoirs in their production work, and 140 of them have no refrigerating chambers. The lack of meat-processing capacities causes the livestock to be kept far too long in the holding yards, where they lose weight. There are still cases of stealing at these enterprises. According to data from the USSR Committee for People's Control, our country loses a total of roughly one million tonnes of meat products each year for these and other reasons.

In light of the huge scarcity of meat products, many cities are using raw materials resources extremely unsatisfactorily.

Production of intermediate products, fully-prepared dishes, and meat items with food additives is increasing slowly. Only two-thirds of the meat by-products, three-fourths of the food bones and half of the blood resources are being processed to make food products. Hence the vast difference in the amount of marketable output per unit of raw materials.

While the Tallin meat-packing plant obtains more than R1,850 in meat products per tonne of processed livestock, other plants produce only 1,200-1,300 rubles' worth or less. The average output for the country is R1,593. This work is being done especially poorly in the Chernovtsy, Transcarpathian, Aktyubinsk, and Odessa oblasts.

By assimilating the Tallin meat-packing plant's experience everywhere possible, the country would obtain an additional R259 in marketable products from every tonne of livestock, which would come to a total of about R3.3 billion. That's the kind of reserves we are talking about!

Take a product such as meat dumplings, which is in great demand by the population. While Ivanov and Podolsk produce 6-10 kg of this product per capita, Vlagoveshchensk, Chelyabinsk, Khabarovsk, Kazan, and Vladivostok produce only 1-1.5 kg per capita per year! And this would actually be quite an easy problem to solve.

Recently, the number of companies trading in meat products has greatly increased, particularly in the poultry-farming sector. In 1988, the number of company stores on poultry farms grew from 30 to 200. There are 120 of these stores in the RSFSR—in Moscow, Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, Orenburg, Stavropol, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Penza, Pyatigorsk, and some other cities. This form of trade greatly shortens the path taken by the

products from the poultry plant to the store counter, thus bypassing unneeded transfers to Ministry of Trade storage depots and refrigerators, reducing in-transit and storage-related losses, and helping the stores to considerately field consumers' inquiries.

The speaker also dwelled on the subject of the state of affairs in the baking industry. The country has sufficient bread grain resources to meet all our population's demand for the widest assortment of high-quality bread products. By and large, the work of the breadmaking enterprises in the cities of Belorussia, Lithuania, Latvia as well as in the Belgorod, Orlov, and Rostov Oblasts can be given high marks for their production of bread, flour, and pastry products. However, consumer demand for high-quality bread products, and especially for variety, is still by and large being met unsatisfactorily. No radical breakthrough has been made here.

How can we talk about the quality of our bread and other products if, according to the results of a survey conducted in the Tajik and Kirgiz SSR's, in cities in the Kaluga and Kuybyshev oblasts and the Krasnoyar Kray, most baking, macaroni and hulling-rolling enterprises are in dire straits and are using antidiluvian equipment!

Our pastry production is developing feebly as well. In 39 cities in the Moscow Oblast there are a total of 8 shops making spice-cake, and they only produce 1 kg per resident, which is less by a factor of 2.5 than for the RSFSR. Nevertheless, there are 44 oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics right in the Russian Federation whose own capacities are unable to meet their demand for pastries.

There are cities in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan which are not providing themselves with pastries even though they have tremendous resources with which to make such items.

It has been said that the production problem is nationwide, and the people themselves say that it is extraordinary. In the present situation everyone sees it as another hindrance to restructuring.

Detailed programs are now being developed for producing food products in each oblast, kray, and republic for the 13th and 14th 5-year plan periods. These programs should call for each city, settlement, and collective to participate concretely in their implementation. We must not reduce this matter to mere appeals.

You can see the different ways in which industrial potential has been put to work as applied to this problem: Where R50 worth of work is done in the Belgorod Oblast for every R1,000 worth of industrial output produced for the agro-industrial complex, then R4.6 worth is done in the Chelyabinsk Oblast, R6.2 in Tashkent, R2.9 in Tbilisi, R2.8 in Kiev, and 76 kopeks' worth in Ryazan.

The CPSU Central Committee and the government are trying to correct this situation. The primary measures they are implementing include expanding the storage and full-scale processing base for raw materials resources. All the machine-building ministries, including defense ministries, have been enlisted to manufacture the necessary machinery. Some R77 billion—a tremendous sum—has been allocated to these ends.

However, we cannot live on expectations and hopes alone. We need to let people know what can be done.

But three years have now passed and the food industry enterprises have not used R1.5 billion. And in the first year of their operation, they produced R1.8 in output for every ruble invested. Of course, the builders are at fault. In line with an old and wicked tradition, food industry construction projects are ranked in the 3rd category, and few people, either in the center or locally, care enough to inquire about them.

The speaker then named a good 15 USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry, Ministry of the Defense Industry, Ministry of General Machine Building and Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry plants which partially or fully disrupted deliveries of equipment for the processing sectors of the country's agro-industrial complex last year. This year they have taken on the task of producing 72 percent of the demand for equipment

In conclusion, the CPSU Central Committee secretary called upon the party organizations and all party members to more actively solve the urgent problems of the city and the countryside.

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First Secretary of the Kharkov Obkom of the Communist Party of the Ukraine V. P. Mysnichenko, in his address to the meeting, expressed the conviction that today's production, scientific, spiritual, and work-force potential is making it possible, repeatedly and in every possible way, to increase the aid provided by Kharkov and other industrial centers in the oblast to the rural areas, and the entire agro-industrial complex.

The last few years have seen positive changes in the production of agricultural output. The new procedures for organizing labor and the expansion of cost-accounting and contract and leasing relations have played a particularly notable role in this process. And the growth rates for production still cannot satisfy present-day demand. This is why the Kharkov Party Organization is placing particular emphasis on greater involvement of material resources and on using the industrial potential of the cities more fully to solve food-related problems.

V. P. Mysnichenko asserted his conviction that the time has come to not simply act as a patron to the countryside, but to define very specific work volumes for the near future and to indicate the kind and amount of financial and material resources which all the industrial

production, construction organizations, and the oblast's other institutions need to invest to expand the agro-industrial complex. And the first order of business should be to have them solve the most outstanding problems. As they say, debts to the countryside should be paid back sooner.

Within the oblast, a definite system has been established for studying the countryside's most urgent and pressing requirements and the real capabilities of the industrial centers to satisfy them, after which a specific program of actions is developed. Implementation of the program is always in the center of attention and under the control of gorkoms and raykoms of the party, primary party organizations and Soviet organs, and is mandatory for the managers of industrial enterprises, organizations, and construction projects. The overall amount of work done by city dwellers for the rural centers comes to more than R60 million per year.

Four priority directions have been determined for applying the joint efforts of urban and rural labor collectives: first—improve farming efficiency; the second—implement a complex of measures aimed at further expanding the animal-breeding sector; third—set up a needed base for shipping, storing, and processing agricultural products and finally, the last but most important direction is to radically restructure our rural centers and strengthen the ideological and cultural-educational work done in this area.

Having dwelled at length on the subject of efforts to enhance soil fertility, the speaker mentioned the important role of scientifically applied fertilizers. Beginning in 1981, agrochemical complexes have been set up in all areas of the oblast. They were built by industrial and construction organizations, and assimilated R130 million in 2 years.

A reliable seed-growing base has been set up through the joint efforts of industrial and rural collectives. The base is made up of seven inter-farm seed-cultivating plants, and three more are under construction. Thanks to this, all the oblast's farms are being provided with seed for the cereal crops with the highest sowing quality requirements.

Industrial enterprises have manufactured 500 rotary disk harrows and the same number of manure spreaders, thus making it possible to use intensive farming methods more fully. Oblast agro-industrial plants and enterprises are presently preparing to initiate joint manufacture of silage harvesters, precision (Bekker-type) seeding sowers and high-output fertilizer loaders, all of which are scarce in our rural centers.

There is also a purposeful effort under way in the oblast to intensify animal husbandry. Its primary goal is to boost production and improve the quality of all types of feeds and their efficient processing and to reduce losses when producing and storing them. A good example of this is the development by scientists and plant designers of the Kharkovchanka—a small-scale unit for preparing mixed feeds. More than 500 of these units have been manufactured in 2 years, and they are now in use on practically all the oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

This has cut the feed-production sector's transport costs by a factor of 6 or 8, production costs per unit of output by one-third and has increased the efficiency of fodder use by 20 percent.

The farms in this oblast were the first in country to use the method of storing moistened grain corn as feed [kornazh]. The industrial enterprises manufactured fodder grinders for each farm capable of producing 20 tonnes of ground corn cobs per hour each, and also built the bins needed to store the feed. Scientists from the Kharkov Aviation Institute contributed greatly to this effort.

The obkom secretary then discussed the experiment in providing the countryside with working assistance to boost fruit-vegetable and potato production. This assistance was directed first of all at mechanizing jobs and reducing manual labor inputs in this sphere. In order to master the "Astrakhan" production method, the industrial enterprises manufactured 700 complete sets of implements as well as techniques for applying flax production techniques to raise potatoes.

The oblast's system for procuring and selling fruit and vegetables is being improved. The speaker gave positive marks to the work of the Plodoovoshchkhoz Special-Purpose Association, which carries out the entire cycle of jobs from field to store counter competently and promptly. The vegetable farms in the suburban zone have been working for 10 years now on direct links in accordance with the "field-to-store" scheme. Urban enterprises helped build the receiving points and supply them with the necessary equipment and working stocks. In compliance with the contracts, the farms provide the stores with the necessary array of their products and the trade organizations receive it right where the vegetables are picked and use either their own transport equipment or motor enterprise vehicles to take it to the sales point. The changeover to direct links has cut output losses; improved the economic indicators of the sovkhozes, marts, and motor pool enterprises; has strengthened procurement discipline; and mainly—has improved the supply of potatoes and vegetables to the urban population.

The oblast has developed a program for constructing additional vegetable storage facilities capable of holding 130,000 tonnes of output, including facilities right on the farms for 30,000 tonnes. The planning estimates were drawn up by organizations in Kharkhov, the financing was set up on a share basis by the oblast agro-industrial committee and industrial enterprises. A great deal of the construction work on the storehouses was done, addition to the construction organizations, by industrial enterprise collectives and Komsomol Youth and student construction detachments. Each of the labor collectives and the rayons of the city of Kharkov were given an

assigned amount of construction and installation work, work on improving the storage facility territory and on manufacturing the optional equipment and vegetable containers. The obkom and gorkom of the party and the oblispolkom and gorispolkom regularly examine the results of the work done at these construction sites. In the last 2 years, 13 storage facilities with a holding capacity of over 40,000 tonnes have been put into operation. Most of this work will be completed this year.

While talking about positive experience, the speaker also mentioned that in many cases the documentation drawn up by the country's chief planning institutes is obsolete compared to world practice, and makes no provision for progressive technological solutions for storing and processing output. Few of the up-to-date machines, equipment, and production lines which would ensure reliable storage and high-quality processing of fruits, vegetables, and potatoes are being manufactured. The mechanization of loading and unloading operations is proceeding slowly.

Those taking part in the meeting were informed that along with constructing large-scale storage facilities for the oblast's wholesale-retail combines, some industrial enterprises are setting up their own storage and processing centers for fruit and vegetables, meat and poultry, and are preparing to produce semi-finished and confectionery products for their own collectives.

The expansion of the food and processing industry has been put under the special supervision of party committees. This effort is being structured in dual directions. First, the necessary material production base is being set up, thanks to new capacities having been put into operation, and existing enterprises are being renovated and re-equipped. Second, the assortment is being expanded and greater volumes of food products are to be produced using local raw materials resources and non-traditional production methods. Over R17 million in production lines, machinery, and equipment is to be manufactured by industrial enterprises, including defense sectors, during this 5-year plan period. There are plans for the years ahead to put a poultry farm, a macaroni plant, and a beer and non-alcoholic beverage works into operation. Kharkov's meat-packing and dairy products combines, and baking industry enterprises are slated for further renovation, and there are plans to construct large fruit and vegetable general stores in every rayon of the city. These stores will have an extensive selection of goods, and will be similar to those already in business in the city's Moscow Rayon.

Production of 130 designations of new food products made from non- traditional types of raw materials has been set up during this 5-year plan at a cost of roughly R200 million. These products include non-fat milk products, pastries, non-alcohol beverages, canned fruits and vegetables, non-stock sausage products etc.

The problems of supplying the population with food products become particularly important with regard to the oblast's changing over to self-support. Doing this greatly increases the responsibility of local party and soviet organs and the entire agro-industrial complex for increasing the yield of the oblast's farms and the productivity of the animal husbandry sector.

The speaker acknowledged that the potential of the more than 300 subsidiary garden plots, enterprises, and organizations which produce a total of about 5,000 tonnes of meat, several thousand tonnes of greenhouse vegetables, and other products is still being put to poor use.

Beginning this year, there are plans to direct capital outlays from industrial enterprises to expand the material-production base of the animal husbandry sector of our kol- and sovkhozes which will, on a contractual basis, bring the barns built by the plants for the livestock capita up to strength and supply them with feed. All additional earnings from this output is to be distributed between the industrial enterprise and the farm in proportion to their produced outlays.

Plans call for assets from industrial enterprises to be used to build an additional 53 hectares of winter greenhouses prior to the end of the current 5-year plan period. These structures will use existing and secondary heat sources. They will operate as subsidiary farms. There are also plans to set up a tank farm on a similar basis in the Gotvaldovskiy Rayon which will have an expected yield of up to 3,000 tonnes of fish per year.

Vegetables will be produced in special-purpose suburban sovkhozes on a mutually profitable lease agreement basis between farms, enterprises, and other organizations in Kharkov, with both sides coming out ahead.

The speaker mentioned that the social restructuring of our rural centers has become the subject of much of the oblast party organization's attention. In fact the continued migration of people from rural locales hs resulted in a rather complex demographic situation. Only 6 percent of the oblast's total population is directly involved in kolkhoz and sovkhoz production work.

During the current 5-year plan period, all available financing sources have been used to construct 860,000 square meters of housing in rural locales—dozens of schools, preschools, clubs, and houses of culture have been put into operation, and 905 km of paved roads have been built. These volumes would have been difficult to achieve without the help of the enterprises and construction workers of Kharkov and the oblast.

Unfortunately, the work on rebuilding our rural centers is being hindered by a shortage of building materials. Those projects which are being built by the direct labor method and which have only 60-80 percent of the basic resources available—and there are even less finishing materials and piping—are in a particularly complicated

situation. This is why the oblast is presently implementing a promising program to expand its construction industry and construction materials base.

In summing up the results of what has been said so far, V. P. Mysnichenko noted that work carried out by the party committee, soviet, and farm organs to further develop the agro-industrial complex, and the active participation of the Kharkov city and oblast industrial enterprise collectives and construction workers in this effort are producing positive results. For the last 3 years, the year's volume of state grain purchases increased by 23 percent, 22 percent for meat, and 20 percent for milk above the 11th 5-year Plan, with labor productivity increasing by 17 percent. And because refrigerated fruit and vegetable storage facilities have been put into operation and these products are processed there, losses have declined by one-third to one-quarter.

At the same time the obkom of the party well understands that far from everything has been done in the oblast to intensify agro-industrial production. Opportunities are being underused here, and growth rates for agricultural products are not up to today's requirements, which has resulted in the population's food supply being improved too slowly. The demand for meat, butter, hard cheese, and some other animal husbandry products is not being completely satisfied.

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The participants of the meeting-seminar viewed the exhibit of samples of equipment manufactured by Kharkov's enterprises and organizations for the agro-industrial complex. The models of equipment used in animal husbandry attracted attention. In addition to the Kharkovchanka unit, this industrial center's enterprises manufacture many other units of machinery used to prepare fodder.

The increased yield of the public livestock production sector is also the result of the farms' using the high-capacity feed dispensers, manure-removing carriers, and the deep-well pumps used to supply water to the farms and arid steppe areas, all of which were developed and manufactured by Kharkov's workers.

The seminar participants also visited the self-service fruit and vegetable store affiliated with the wholesale-retail combine in the city of Kharkov's Moscow Rayon. One out of three residents of the rayon works here.

An entire complex of enterprises involved in processing agricultural output has been erected in Kharkov in recent years. The seminar participants visited a dairy farm and a meat-packing plant. The first produces 300 tonnes of whole-milk products per shift. These products include 32 different products. This facility produces R49 million in output per year. The meat-packing plant's capacities produce 68 tonnes of sausage items and semi-finished meat products per shift.

All of Kharkov took part in building the fruit and vegetable center in the suburban settlement of Vasishchevo. This facility has a one-time storage capacity of 65,000 tonnes of vitamin products. Powerful refrigerating plants can refrigerate 43,000 tonnes of fruit. This storage facility alone supplies almost half this industrial center's population with vegetables and fruit. The participants of the seminar and meeting were familiarized with its operation. They also visited the Kharkov Rayon's Kharkov vegetable factory sovkhoz. This farm uses intensive production methods to produce garden crops and processes its own yield. This sovkhoz grows more than 10,000 tonnes of vegetables per year.

The seminar participants also became familiar with the organization of public catering in Kharkhov's industrial enterprises. Specifically, they visited the Proton Production Association. A new 1,000-seat canteen is in operation here. Both the state public catering facility and the association's canteen use output from the in-house subsidiary plot.

The seminar-meeting continued its work.

The following took part in the seminar: Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers I. S. Silayev, First Deputy Chairman of USSR Gosagroprom Ye. I. Sizanko, Chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers V. A. Masol, and responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee.

Scientific

Space Probe Transmits First Images of Mars Moon

LD2102211689 Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—TASS correspondent reports from flight control center: The unmanned space probe Phobos, which continues to circle Mars, has relayed to the earth the first images of its natural moon Phobos.

As was already reported, on February 18 the probe was transferred to a new observation orbit which is close to circular and has a radius exceeding by 300 kilometres the radius of Phobos' orbit. Exploration of the atmosphere of Mars, its surface and near-planet space continued from the observation orbit for three days.

The first television transmission session was held from 15:35 to 16:25 on February 21 when the spacecraft was at a distance of 860 to 1,130 kilometres from this celestial body. On commands from the probe's onboard controller, under the programme developed in advance, the draft manoeuvred for focussing on Phobos.

A high-quality image of Phobos from various angles was recorded on nine television sequences. Video information obtained during the session was transfered to the onboard storage and relayed to the flight control center

during a regular communication session, where it will be used to specify the parameters of the movement of Phobos and the spacecraft with a view of their subsequent rendezvous.

Phobos was recorded by television equipment developed jointly by specialists of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic.

The next television session in the observation orbit is planned for February 23.

'Cosmos-2004' Satellite Launched 22 Feb

LD2202102789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1002 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (TASS)—Another artificial earth satellite," Cosmos-2004," was launched in the Soviet Union today by a "Cosmos" launch vehicle. It carries scientific apparatus for continuing space research.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution, 105.1 minutes; apogee, 1,031 km; perigee, 993 km; orbital inclination, 83 degrees.

The satellite also carried a radio system for precise measurement of orbital elements and a radiotelemetry system for transmitting to earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally.

Military

Lushev on Restructuring, Defense Capability

LD2102130389 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Soviet defences remain dependable but perestroika in the Armed Forces is still too slow, according to First Deputy Soviet Defence Minister Petr Lushev.

"The Soviet Union's defence has been reliably ensured in the new conditions of recent years, while initiatives by this country and other socialist nations in the international arena graphically illustrate that the threat of war can be reduced by political means," General Lushev said.

Speaking to TASS on the occasion of Soviet Army and Navy Day on February 23, he described the courage, dedication and heroism recently demonstrated by Soviet soldiers.

"Many of them acquitted themselves admirably, for example, when dealing with the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and train explosions in Arzamas and Sverdlovsk.

"Soviet troops also bore the brunt of rescue operations following tragic earthquakes in Armenia and Tajikistan.

"Several dozen Soviet soldiers were awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union title for performing their internationalist duty in Afghanistan in exemplary fashion and for their bravery and heroism," General Lushev said.

But he expressed dissatisfaction with the slow pace of perestroika and its results in the Armed Forces. "This applies first of all to problems of strengthening discipline in the Army and Navy," he explained.

Lushev praised the decision to cut the Soviet Armed Forces by 500,000 men as absolutely right and justified both politically and militarily.

Expressing a desire to continue working to lessen the threat of war, he said: "One cannot ignore the other side of the coin either: The nation needs protection for its interests. And we, the military, see our duty in maintaining adequate defence capability."

Gromov Named Commander of Kiev Military District

LD1902093989 London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 19 Feb 89 P 9

[Article by defense correspondent Simon O'Dwyer-Russell: "Key Posting for the 'Butcher of Salang'"]

[Excerpts] Less than six hours after posing for the world's press as the last Soviet soldier to leave Afghanistan last week, the commander of the Soviet forces, Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, received a significant posting order.

The Kremlin has sent Gromov, the officer who ordered the slaughter of Afghan civilians along the length of the Salang highway to ensure a safe retreat north for his men, to be the commander of the Soviet Union's Kiev military district.

NATO intelligence sources expect the posting to be followed within days by an announcement of his promotion to colonel general. His new command is a key job in shaping Warsaw Pact doctine towards NATO.

The appointment of Gromov, or the "Butcher of Salang" as he is known, is one of a series of promotions. They bring the battle experience earned by the Soviet Army at such high cost during the Afghan campaign to the Warsaw Pact units facing NATO in Europe.

Despite the humiliating defeat inflicted on the Russians by the poorly-equipped mujahedin, a defeat which has cost more than 17,000 Soviet soldiers killed and an estimated 45,000 wounded, the Soviet Army has learned an enormous amount during its own nine-year "crazy Asian war".

For many Soviet officers the war has been a career springboard from which they have never looked back. NATO intelligence has identified several young infantry company commanders, who fought in Afghanistan in 1984-85, who are now commanding motor rifle regiments of nearly 3,000 men within the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

The two Soviet armed helicopter regiments based in East Germany are commanded by officers with four years' combat flying experience in Afghanistan.

Both are Heroes of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin's highest gallantry award, and NATO believes Russian helicopter tactics in Europe have undergone a thorough overhaul since the arrival of these officers.

The so-called "Afghan Brotherhood" of Soviet officers who served in the war, a tight-knit clique within the officer corps which numbers close to 50,000, can now examine traditional Russian military doctrine, largely unaltered since the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45, in the light of their experiences in Afghanistan.

It is this experience of largescale military operations within the Soviet military system, so markedly absent from NATO's own officer ranks, which the West fears most following the retreat from Kabul. [passage omitted]

NATO intelligence officers point to a series of senior Russian officers whose experience in Afghanistan will influence the Soviet military system in the coming years at the highest level.

Afghan "vets" are to be found in key appointments within the Soviet military academies. General Salmanov, who for two years trained the Afghan Army, is now head of the influential General Staff Academy in Moscow.

Western intelligence sources see a marked change in the Soviet military system to be the real, and to NATO the ominous, legacy of the war.

Equally, within the "Afghan Brotherhood" now lives a graphic memory of the huge human cost of warfare, a memory which now permeates every level of the Soviet officer corps. This memory may be the sobering legacy which makes their army more ready to accept the disarmament moves of President Gorbachev.

Yazov Meets Wounded Soldiers From Afghanistan

LD2102190589 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Army General Dmitriy Yazov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Soviet defence minister, on Tuesday met soldiers-internationalists who were wounded when fulfilling their international duty in Afghanistan and are undergoing treatment now at the main military clinical hospital named after N.N. Burdenko. He showed interest in the way they are treated and conditions created for them in the hospital.

THe Soviet defence minister cordially congratulated the soldiers with the approaching Day of the Soviet Army and Navy, wished them early recovery and presented valuable presents to them.

In the run-up to the holiday valuable gifts were also presented to soldiers-internationalists who are undergoing treatment in other military hospitals.

Candidate People's Deputies Meet With Voters

PM2102164789 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 89 First Edition p 1

[Colonel O. Sholmov report: "Meeting With Candidates"]

[Text] A meeting has been held at the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and Obkom House of Political Enlightenment between candidate USSR people's deputies nominated by the Third DOSAAF Central Committee Plenum and voters and activists of the defense society of Moscow and the oblast. The following set forth their election programs and answered numerous questions from those present: Zh. Akebayev, chairman of the Sarkandskiy Rayon DOSAAF Committee of Taldy-Kurgan Oblast; G. Blums, director of the "Stari" Sovkhoz in the Latvian SSR; USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut Major General of Aviation P. Klimuk; Colonel General N. Kotlovtsev, chairman of the DOSAAF Central Committee; Army General P. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact states' Joint Armed Forces; and others.

V.F. Chernyshev, chief of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom State Law Department, participated in the meeting.

Voters Support Candidacy of General Kochetov

PM2102165089 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 89 First Edition p 1

[Colonel V. Slobodskoy report: "What Is Most Important and Urgent"]

[Text] At the House of Culture in the settlement of Tuchkovo in Moscow Oblast's Ruzskiy Rayon, a meeting took place between USSR First Deputy Defense Minister Army General K. Kochetov, candidate USSR people's deputy for Odintsovskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 37, and the voters. He set forth his program for future activity, analyzed the international situation, stressed the need to ensure the effectiveness of defense building primarily through qualitative parameters as regards both hardware and personnel, and outlined our state's new military doctrine, which is purely defensive in its thrust.

Voters who spoke at the meeting spoke openly of urgent matters, gave the candidate deputy instructions, and unanimously adopted a resolution to support the candidacy of Army General K. Kochetov for election as a USSR people's deputy.

The meeting ended with a concert by the twice Red Banner A.V. Aleksandrov Soviet Army Academic Song and Dance Ensemble.